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WEEKLY

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COMING
 NSL GAMES
 — PAGE 2

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CZECH
MATES

BY LOU GAUTIER



VACLAV NEMECEK — only one of two Czechoslovakian World Cup squad members, but he will have to undergo a fitness test before coming to Australia. Should he fail, his replacement will be Roman Sedlacek.

DESPITE the inclusion of only two members of their 1990 World Cup squad, and not starters at that, Czechoslovakia is bringing a strong team to Australia later this month.

Jiri Nemec and Vaclav Nemecek — who has to pass a fitness test before being allowed to tour — were in the

Czechoslovak squad at Italia '90 but did not play in any of their country's games en route to a quarter-final berth.

However, the touring squad includes three current full A internationals who have appeared in European Championship qualifying matches this season.

Michal Hipp and Dusan Tittel, both Slovaks, not to be

confused with Czechs, the other ethnic component in Czechoslovakia, played against France and Spain late last year.

Ladislav Pecko played against France only — in a 2-1 loss.

Czechoslovakia, despite that defeat, still have every chance of qualifying for the European Championship finals in Sweden in June 1992 as they beat Iceland 1-0 and, more significantly, Spain 3-2 in Prague.

The rest of the Czechoslovakian national team is playing with European clubs who, not surprisingly, have not released them for friendly internationals at the other side of the world.

The bulk of the tourists are members of Czechoslovakia's mighty under 23 Olympic team — a raging-hot favourite to not only qualify for the Barcelona finals, but to win a medal.

The Czechoslovak Olympians are running away with their qualifying group and in friendly games have beaten the best Europe has to offer, which makes Australia's 2-0 defeat against them last August a more than

respectable result.

Though this is not, by a long shot, the strongest A team the Czechoslovaks can muster as the likes of Stejskal, Hasek, Skuhravy, Moravcil, Bilek and Knoflicek won't be coming, the tourists will be led by national coach Milan Macala; the man who replaced Joe Ven-glos after Italia '90.

His assistant, La-

dislav Novak, is one of the all-time greats of Czechoslovakian football.

The two games against Australia are set down for Olympic Park, Melbourne at 8pm on Wednesday, January 30, and at Parramatta Stadium, also at 8pm, on Wednesday, February 6.

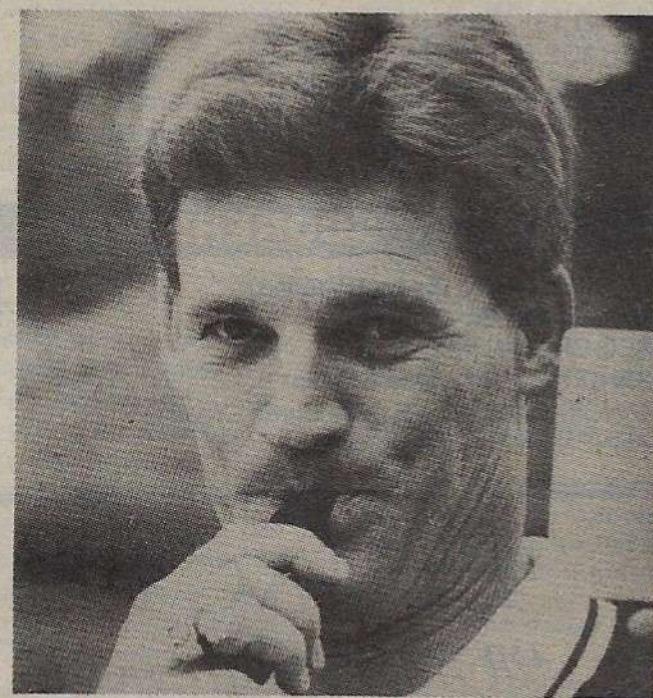
Czechoslovakia's touring party — see page 6.



Adelaide City's Milan Ivanovic: a shock selection in Eddie Thomson's Socceroos for the two games against Czechoslovakia on January 30 and February 6.

Aussie refs hit
by FIFA edict

BY TED SIMMONS



Australian World Cup referee Richard Lorenc demonstrates the whistler's art.

AUSTRALIAN referees could have diminished chances of being selected for major international soccer tournaments if FIFA reduces the age limit.

Secretary general Sepp Blatter has revealed that FIFA is to set an age limit for World Cup referees because older officials struggled to cope with the strain of last year's finals in Italy.

He did not say what the age limit would be but pointed out that referees older than 45 were good for one match but definitely could not handle the strain of a long tournament.

Australian FIFA referee Richard Lorenc, who was appointed as linesman to four matches in Italy, said the decision would reduce the chances of Australian referees getting a posting in the next World Cup.

"It will depend on the FIFA criteria and whether they look for experience or fitness but they will obviously consider the better referees from Europe and South America," he said.

"Today's faster standard of play requires more sprinting as the ball travels so quickly between players.

"It really depends on the fitness of the referee. In Italy, English referee George Courtney was nearly 49 but was super-fit.

"There is also a lot of pressure at the World Cup from the media and constant television replays. Make an error which results in a goal and next day's media really hounds you about it.

"A big problem is whether younger referees would be able to handle big matches and how early do you introduce them to internationals?"

Blatter also criticised the standard of linesmen at the World Cup, saying they were partly responsible for overly defensive play.

Many of them were international referees with little recent experience of running the line and he said linesmen needed to be better trained.

"They looked at the game like referees, not as linesmen."

Lorenc said that Australian referees had regular appointments to run lines in State League and many were used on lines in the NSL.

"Some of the referees at the World Cup apparently did lines without prior training. Certainly these referees need to be better trained," he said.

QUIT NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi.....	15	10	1	4	31	17	21
Melb. Croatia.....	15	9	3	3	35	26	21
South Melbourne.....	15	8	5	2	24	15	21
Preston.....	15	6	5	4	18	14	17
Sydney Olympic.....	15	5	7	3	17	15	17
Sydney Croatia.....	15	4	7	4	19	19	15
Wollongong City.....	15	6	3	6	17	19	15
Adelaide City.....	15	4	7	4	14	16	15
Apia Leichhardt.....	15	5	4	6	19	16	14
Parra Melita.....	15	5	4	6	21	19	14
Heidelberg Utd.....	15	3	7	5	16	20	13
Sunshine GC.....	15	4	2	9	23	34	10
St George.....	15	2	5	8	14	25	9
Wollongong Macedonia.....	15	1	6	8	10	23	8

Results

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Wade) PARRA MELITA 0 at Middle Park. Crowd: 4,500.
SYDNEY CROATIA 3 (Krslovic 2, Kupresak) MELBOURNE CROATIA 4 (Kelic 2, Awaritefe 2) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 5,372.
SUNSHINE GC 0 MARCONI 2 (Lowe, Markovski) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 1,200.
APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (Gomez) HEIDELBERG UTD 1 (Herd) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1,548.
PRESTON 0 ST GEORGE 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 2,100.
WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA 1 (Sandy) ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Maxwell) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 2,213.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Ironsides, Saad) WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3,850.

CROWDS

ROUND 15: 20,783
 AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,969
 TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 341,904
 AVERAGE PER ROUND: 22,793

TOP SCORERS

TONY KRSLOVIC (Sydney Croatia)	14
DAVID SEAL (Marconi)	12
GREG BROWN (Parra Melita)	9
IVAN KELIC (Melbourne Croatia)	9
FRANCIS AWARITEFE (Melbourne Croatia)	8
WARREN SPINK (Preston)	7

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AUSTRALIAN

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Clubs grab for Top Five places

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

WITH the tight battle for places in the semi-final series now hotting up, the Parramatta Melita v Sydney Croatia clash should be the pick of the action from round 16.

The top three clubs at this stage appear to be set for places in the finals, leaving just two positions for the chasing posse of clubs.

Leading this bunch are the Eagles and Sydney Croatia, both of which would be welcome additions to the play-offs, with their exciting brand of football.

Sydney Croatia, despite being winless away from home this season, will be tough for the Eagles to knock over, with the revitalised Manis Lamond and sharpshooter Tony Krslovic in fine touch of late.

Krslovic and Co must however begin to put it together away from the Sports Centre, with only five goals in seven matches on enemy soil.

Melita on the other hand have moved up a gear recently and have their own ace in prolific goalscorer Greg Brown.

After a poor start to this campaign, including three straight defeats at home, the Eagles have won three of their last four, conceding just two goals in the process.

With defeat a minor disaster for either club, a draw could be on the cards at Melita Stadium this weekend.

Adelaide City face another big task when they host the powerful South Melbourne.

City's poor home form has been out of character compared with years gone by, with only two victories to speak of at Hindmarsh from seven matches.

Added to their woes City seem to have lost their way to goal, with only six goals to their credit at home, one of the worst in the league.

Souths on the other



Heidelberg fullback Con Vassiliadis and an airborne Apia skipper Brian Ellen.

hand have lost just once away from home, with nine goals added to their tally in their last three away.

With all the odds seemingly stacked up against the hosts, another South Melbourne victory looks certain, although Souths have won just three times at Hindmarsh in 13 encounters.

Arch rivals Marconi and Apia go into battle once again this Sunday, with pride as much as points always at stake in this fixture.

Equal leaders Marconi have dropped just one point in seven matches at home, and with David Seal enjoying his new surroundings, have averaged three goals a game at Bossley Park.

With one of the bet-

ter away records in the competition, Apia would take much joy from downing their more illustrious brothers, and stay in contention for the finals.

Despite Marconi's marvellous home record, Apia have lost just three times in 13 clashes at Bossley Park, and on Sunday they may just sneak a point.

Strife torn St George will have their hands full when they play host to semi-final hopefuls Wollongong City this weekend.

Despite the off-field rift between Andy Koczka and the Saints management, the Soccer defender should return following his suspension.

With Randell Easthorpe and Vince Cola-

guiri recently transferred, Saints coach Frank Arok is beginning to run out of options.

St George have picked up only one win in their last six at home, while scoring just three goals in their last five matches on their home turf.

The Wolves, despite only three victories in 17 matches against the Saints down the years, should take the spoils and keep their play-off hopes alive.

Preston, without a goal in nine hours away from Connor Reserve, visit the much improved Heidelberg this weekend.

The tough as teak Bergers have not lost at home for three months, the same period of time since Preston last found the net away from home.

A draw here looks likely, with the Bergers never prepared to throw away points, while Preston must get serious away from home or risk missing the semi-final play-offs.

Melbourne Croatia should continue Sunshine's woeful away run of five straight defeats, while Sydney Olympic, beginning to turn up the heat, should be too good for cellar dwellers Wollongong Macedonia.



Apia defender Darren Stewart in action against Heidelberg.

COACH WANTED

NSW STATE LEAGUE, First Division Club, ROCKDALE ILINDEN, invites applications for the vacant position of RESERVE GRADE COACH for the 1991 Season.

A qualified coach is required and for further information please contact John on

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Written applications to be sent to:
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 P.O. Box 95
 ROCKDALE NSW. 2216



CONGRATS LES

Congratulations to Heidelberg's Les Carter and wife Jackie on the birth of their second child, Sean Matthew, who saw the light of day for the first time on Friday January 11.

PLAYER AWARDS

Woll Mac v Adelaide City

- 3 P. Wilson (WM)
- 2 A. Vidmar (AC)
- 1 P. Shillabeer (AC)

Apia v Heidelberg

- 3 B. Hughes (A)
- 2 P. Bordignon (H)
- 1 P. McFadden (A)

St George v Preston

- 3 Baillie (StG)
- 2 Filan (StG)
- 1 Jackson (Preston)

South Melb v Parra Melita

- 3 P. Wade (SM)
- 2 P. Tsoulakis (SM)
- 1 D. Healy (SM)

Syd Olympic v W'gong City

- 3 G. Phillips (SO)
- 2 A. Saad (SO)
- 1 K. Hagan (SO)

Sunshine v Marconi

- 3 P. Katholos (M)
- 2 R. Wheatley (M)
- 1 D. Lowe (M)

Syd Croatia v Melb Croatia

- 3 J. Biskic (MC)
- 2 J. Petkovic (SC)
- 1 J. Awaratife (MC)

PLAYER POINTS

- 17: J. Filan (StG)
- 16: I. Petkovic (SC)
- 14: A. Bundalo (Apia), Stubbins (H), G. Phillips (SO)
- 13: J. Biskic (MC)
- 12: P. Okon (M)
- 11: D. Lowe (M)
- 10: M. Ivanovic (AC) G. McDowall (H), T. McCulloch (Marconi), S. Jackson (Preston), N. Peterson (SM), T. Krslovic (SC).

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Penrith Soccer Club, which plays in the NSW State League Division 4 competition, invites applications for the position of SENIOR COACH for the 1991 season.

Applications must be made in writing, stating qualifications and experience, and must be forwarded to:

**THE SECRETARY,
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For further information, please contact:
 Federation Secretary, Dave Perkins
 047 362 168 or Club President,
 Derek Else 047 218 629



Inspired Olympic downs the courageous Wolves

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic scored their third win on the trot (their fifth of the season) when they downed a courageous Wollongong City 2-0 at the St George Stadium in front of an energized crowd of 3,850.

Olympic's victory lifted them from seventh position into fifth spot on the NSL ladder.

Wollongong City managed to hold the champions scoreless in the first session but second half goals from midfielders Robbie Ironside and Abbas Saad finally sunk the South Coasters.

12 minutes after half time a corner on the right from Saad, was met by Ironside whose rocketing header crashed against the underside of the cross bar and deflected into the net.

Saad made it 2-0 in the 75th minute when left midfielder Steve Refenes passed to Saad on the edge of the box.

Saad's hot shot was goal-bound and Wollongong keeper, Tony Pezzano, looked to have it covered when it took a vicious deflection off Jock Morlando and flew high into the top left corner of the net.

Wollongong inexplicably fell apart in the second session allowing a rampant Sydney



Steve Refenes and Robbie Ironside

Olympic to take full control.

The midfield of Saad, Phillips, Ironside and Refenes closely linking with twin strikers Kevin Hagan and Edwards showed no mercy as they methodically began to cut Wollongong down.

The visitors although always a defiant unit against any opposition failed to keep possession long enough to threaten Olympic.

The only danger they came close to inflicting on Olympic came in the first session.

Saad ran riot especially in the second half

as he unleashed three spectacular shots on target of which one triggered a bullseye.

Mick Hickman, Olympics coach, commented after the match "I was most pleased of course with the win but we still have a lot of improvement to achieve, especially in the department of cohesion, in blending in Abbas and Alistair."

A disappointed Wollongong coach, the ever tenacious David Ratcliffe, commented "They inflicted a lot of pressure on us in the second half and we failed to take advantage of the breeze in the first half and thus became frustrated. We did not hold the ball long enough to be able to do something really constructive with it."

In the first session it was Wollongong City who launched the first serious assault on goal when terrier-like midfielder Mark Hollifield volleyed a David Ratcliffe header, but his 20 metre shot flew over Clint Gosling's crossbar.

Following this threat Olympic was stung into action one minute later, when right midfielder Abbas Saad busted through two defenders and dummied towards Alister Edwards, but kept going to slice a lovely ball to

the left to pick up left midfielder, Steve Refenes.

But Refenes, although completely unmarked, blasted his shot straight into a diving goalkeeper, Tony Pezzano.

The Wolves again had Olympic under pressure in the 27th minute following a corner on the right.

The ball took a sharp deflection inside the six yard box but right-back Dave Barrett headed off his goal line to neutralise the danger.

Sydney Olympic kicked off the match with Saad on the right of their midfield instead of Scott Ollershaw.

The defending NSL champions did much of the attacking but Wollongong City, superbly commanded by their centre-back and coach, former world cup defender David Ratcliffe, soaked up all pressure easily.

Just before half time Refenes whipped a cross off the by-line, but it was too high for target man Kevin Hagan.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling 6, Barrett 7, Bernal 7 (Platanotis 73m), Spyridakos 7, Hooker 7, Phillips 8, Saad 8, Ironside 8, Refenes 7, Edwards 7, Hagan 8 (Ollershaw 70m).

WOLLONGONG CITY: Pezzano 8, Green 6, Yankos 7, Morlando 7, Ratcliffe 7 (Farmer 76m), Hollifield 7, Cahut 7, Skeen 7, Hristovski 6 (Brodnick 70m), Bate 7, Kuc 7.

SCORERS: R Ironside 57m, A Saad 75m for Sydney Olympic.
YELLOW CARDS: Bernal 50m, Edwards 65m, Platanotis 83m SO, Kuc 22m, Cahut 70m, Yankos 77m WC. **REFEREE:** J McConnell 6.
CROWD: 3,850.

Tour, PR man on go

There have been many enquiries for tickets for the Czechoslovakia — Australia games, advises Australian Soccer Federation general secretary, Alan Vessey.

"The Czechs' record is first class, and there will be no passengers in the squad," he added.

For matches see page 1 and team details pages 6 and 9.

In other ASF news, the Commissioners are down to the final four in the selection process for the ASF/NSL Marketing and PR officer.

In addition every effort is being made to complete selection of the very important committee members, which is required under the new national organisation.

— KEITH GILMOUR

Wade shoots Souths ahead of Melita

BY PETROS KOSMOPOULOS

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas defeated Parramatta Melita 1-0 yesterday afternoon at Middle Park.

The only goal of the match was scored by Socceroo Paul Wade in the 76th minute with a superb right foot shot from outside the box.

The home side came into the game without Socceroo Mike Peterson, who had come down with a virus over the weekend and was replaced by Harris Micheal.

In an even first half both teams did not provide a good spectacle for the 4,500 supporters.

The home side had two opportunities to score early in the first half. Two free kicks outside the box were awarded to Souths but Con Boutsianis and Peter Tsolakis did not create any problems for the Melita defence.

Melita only created one good chance in the first half when in the 16th minute a well struck shot by Gus Cerro was blocked by keeper Bruce MacLaren.

Seconds before the end of the first half Souths created a very good chance to open the scoreline. Mehmet Durakovic with a very good pass found youngster Con Boutsianis but just when he was about to



PAUL WADE

let loose with the shot the Melita defenders cleared the ball for a corner.

South Melbourne started the second half in fine fashion and created many chances. In the 55th minute a David Healy cross found a well placed Boutsianis whose header was saved on the line by Alex McPherson.

Five minutes later Melita was unlucky not to score when a cracking Marshall Soper shot was saved brilliantly by MacLaren for a corner.

Hellas created two good chances with Tsolakis and Trimboli in the 65th and 70th minutes respectively before its efforts were rewarded in the 76th minute.

Paul Wade let loose with a cracking shot sending the ball to the back of the net scoring the only goal of the match.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: MacLaren 6, Healy 7, Postecoglou 5, Durakovic 6, Blair 5, Wade 7, Michalakopoulos 4, Micheal 6 (Palatsidis 72m), Trimboli 5, Boutsianis 6, Tsolakis 7.

MELITA: McPherson 6, Falzon 5, O'Donnell 5, Barrios 6, Gonzales 7, Cerro 6, Nowicki 6 (Gunning 58m), Gimenez 6, Soper 5, Brown 6, Genc 5.

SCORER: P Wade 76m Hellas.

YELLOW CARDS: Boutsianis 61m, Durakovic 67m (SM), Barrios 11m O'Donnell 41m, Falzon 90m (M).

REFEREE: G Power 6.
CROWD: 4,500.

David Mitchell opens account

AUSTRALIAN international David Mitchell finally broke his English League duck today with the only goal of the game in Newcastle's 1-0 home win over Blackburn on Saturday.

"I've been around a bit, but I've never scored a league goal before," said Mitchell, who is currently on loan to the Second Division side from First



Division Chelsea.

"After being out of things at Chelsea for so long I was tired in the last 15 minutes.

"It was an important win for us and I'm delighted to have scored the winner."

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ASW's Greg Blake can be heard each weekend on 3AK's SUPER SOCCER SUNDAY

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ITALIAN JOB

MARCONI vs APIA



SATURDAY 7PM
AT THE
MARCONI STADIUM



YOUTH LEAGUE 5PM



IAN GRAY



GERRY GOMEZ



BRESCIA



PAUL OKON



ALEX BUNDALO

THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE TWO ITALIAN GIANTS

BRESCIA FURNITURE



Defensive second period leads to Apia draw

BY LACHLAN BARKER



Gerry Gomez signals his joy at scoring Apia's goal against Heidelberg at Lambert Park. — Pic by STEVE GOSCH.

APIA Leichhardt overcame the shock of conceding a goal in the first minute to earn a draw with a dogged Heidelberg at Lambert Park last night.

The game was characterised by two sharply contrasting halves, the first had excitement, incident and both goals, while the second was dominated by efficient defensive play which led to a fairly featureless period.

Barely had the spectators taken their seats when Heidelberg were in the lead.

Alan Scott worked hard on the left-flank and delivered a competent cross to the near post where Willy Herd, in acres of space, slotted the ball home.

Exactly what the Apia defence was doing is a matter for conjecture, acting in a still life was one guess — whatever was going on Heidelberg were leading 1-0.

And there was almost worse to come for the home team.

Just three minutes later Heidelberg midfielder, Phil Stubbins, supplied attacker Terry Rizopolous with an accurate lobbed ball; his shot was an explosive effort that brought the best from Apia keeper Brett Hughes.

Hughes can take as much credit as anyone for the point earned by Apia.

Apia also did their share of attacking.

In the 15th minute Apia captain Brian Ellem went dancing into the penalty area only to be brought down.

Although it appeared that the tackle was one that a Wallerawang rugby league player would have been proud of and the crowd roared for a penalty, referee Richard Lorenc, made an

excellent decision and waved play on.

However the break came for Apia in the 19th minute, once again Brian Ellem generated the attack on the right flank.

He found Paul McFadden whose cross was met at the far post by Gerry Gomez.

Gomez' header bounced agonizingly close to Heidelberg keeper Jeff Oliver and then caressed the back of the net.

There followed soon after a couple of remarkable incidents.



Brian Ellem

Gary Brattan hit the post and the rebound was finished by Stu Stevenson only to be ruled offside, and two minutes later at the Heidelberg end Apia peppered the goal with four shots, all saved on the line, before Tony Lemezina finished only to have his goal disallowed for a push in the area.

The second half was very quiet due to the

power defending at both ends with Stuart Cannell saving Heidelberg's bacon by sticking a long leg in front of a Paul McFadden shot.

At the Apia end Hughes produced another match winning save at the feet of Rizopolous to earn himself concussion and his team a draw.

Apia coach Manfred Schaefer was happy with his team, saying "We did very well to come back from the early goal and in the second half they did nothing due to our performance. Mind you, How can you play a team like that, they just play spoiling tactics and aim for a draw".

Heidelberg coach Len McKendry was also reasonably happy. "We controlled the game very well from the back, especially in the second half. I was happy with the point as we had a patchwork team due to suspensions."

Finally, it should be noted that referee Lorenc's performance was tight and efficient.

His decisions were notable for their precision and clarity, which in the long run can only be good for the game.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Hughes 8, Blagejovic 6, Jennings 6, Stewart 6, Brown 6, McQuarrie (Okon 68) 5, Ellem 6, Gomez 6, McFadden 7, Bundalo 6, Lemezina (Clinch 77) 6.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 6, Vassiliadis 6, Bordignon 7, McDowall 5, Cannell 6, Scott 5, Stubbins 6, Herd 7, Stevenson 6, Brattan 6, Rizopolous 7.

SCORERS: Gomez for Apia, Herd for Heidelberg.

YELLOW CARDS: Herd 25, McDowall 40, Stubbins 75 for Heidelberg. McFadden 40 for Apia.

REFEREE: R. Lorenc 8.

CROWD: 1548.



'Kat' leads the way for top side Marconi

BY DAVID BULLOCK

MARCONI maintained its league leadership with a convincing 2-0 victory over Sunshine George Cross at Skinner Reserve yesterday.

David Lowe opened the scoring after 22 minutes with a brilliant individual effort, and 51 minutes into the game John Markovski rounded off the scoring with one of the best goals of the season.

Sunshine, who were thumped 6-1 when they last met Marconi in round 2 last year, had no answer to the professional and fluent style of their opponents.

The star for Marconi all afternoon was midfielder Peter Katholos, who made the most of one of his rare full first team appearances so far this season.

Marconi came close to opening the scoring after 19 minutes when defender Jean-Paul de Marigny collected a neat pass from David Lowe inside the area, only to see his final shot go centimetres wide of the left post.

Three minutes later Marconi took the lead when Lowe caught the George Cross defence flat-footed on the half way line.

With open space and only the goalkeeper ahead of him, he charged forward and neatly tucked the ball under a despairing Keogh who was making his first appearance in the first team since round 3.

Sunshine came close to equalising two minutes later but Marconi keeper Bob Catlin made a fine save to deny a thumping shot from Gary Hasler from the edge of the penalty area.

One minute from half time Catlin once again denied Hasler, who had goal in sight but did not count on the fine reflexes of the Marconi keeper.

Moments later Marconi had a chance to go further ahead but this time George Cross keeper Keogh was equal to the task by denying Markovski's shot on goal.

Six minutes into the second half Marconi fittingly went two goals ahead when Markovski scored a blinder.

Collecting the ball 35 metres out from

goal, Markovski hit a pile driver into the back of the net with opposing keeper Keogh only watching in despair.

In the 62nd minute a goalkeeping blunder by Keogh was nearly penalised but unfortunately for Marconi Mark Jones was unable to capitalise.

Nine minutes later Zlatko Nastevski came close to extending the lead for Marconi when he hammered a shot from 20 metres that ended only centimetres over the crossbar with Keogh well beaten.

Eleven minutes

from full time referee Denis Voutsinas disallowed an apparent penalty when Marconi keeper Catlin brought down Damien Mori inside the area as the George Cross defender had rounded him.

Referee Voutsinas, much to the dismay of the home crowd, waved play on.

Marconi held firm and the game became a slow paced event but Sunshine came close to opening their account in the 89th minute.

A free kick just outside the area by Craig Foster was curled around the defensive wall and cannoned off the

crossbar and scurried clear by the Marconi defence.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 5, Mori 5, Roodhouse 4, Waddell 5, Ketsakidis 4, Humble 4, Kindtner 4 (Fabrizio 71m), C Foster 5, Hasler 4 (Hunter 49m 5), Clarkson 5, De Amicis 5.

MARCONI: Catlin 6, Wheatley 7, de Marigny 6, Calderan 6, Okon 6, Gray (McCulloch 17m 5), Katholos 8, Jones 6, Nastevski 6, Markovski 5 (Seal 65m), Lowe 7.

SCORERS: D Lowe 22m, J Markovski 51m (Marconi).

YELLOWCARDS: Humble 66m (SGC), De Marigny 84m, Seal 88m (Marconi).

REFEREE: D Voutsinas 4.

CROWD: 1,200.

WORLD STUDENT GAMES SHEFFIELD, UK 14-25 JULY 1991

Selection of the Australian Student Soccer Team to compete at the World Student Games in Sheffield, UK, in July 1991 has commenced. Eligible soccer players who wish to be considered for selection are requested to complete the form below and return it to the Australian Universities Sports Association no later than February 15, 1991.

The World Student Games will be the largest international sports event in Europe in 1991 and the largest ever sports event in the United Kingdom. The Games rank second only to the Olympic Games in terms of standard of competition and the number of athletes. Over 6,000 athletes and officials from 130 nations are expected to attend and to compete in the 11 sports.

Australia will be sending a soccer team for the first time in the history of the Games.

Selection in the Australian team is open to any soccer player between the age of 17-28 years on January 1, 1991, who is a student at a University, CAE or TAFE proceeding towards a degree or diploma (or who completed his course in 1989 and was awarded his degree or diploma in 1990).

Further details may be obtained by contacting Keith Tuffley on (02) 229 8476.

To: **Australian Universities Sports Association**
PO Box 342, North Ryde, 2113

I am a student at/graduated at
(University/CAE/TAFE)

and wish to be considered for selection/express my interest in the Australian Student Soccer Team to compete at the World Student Games in July 1991.

Full Name:

Address:

Phone No:

Present Club:

Sandy salvages draw for Woll Macedonians

BY LEN CHAFER

IN a game of missed chances lowly Wollongong Macedonia played a 1-1 draw with visitors Adelaide City at Brandon Park.

In the first 20 minutes Adelaide was all over Wollongong as their smart running and precise passing had the Macedonian's defence at sixes and sevens.

Indeed Adelaide could have gone a goal in front as early as the fifth minute when Carl Veart was brought down in the penalty area. Sergio Melta took the penalty kick but Peter Wilson the Macedonian goalkeeper dived to his left to make a brilliant save.

In the 16th minute Macedonia had their chance to score when Zlatko Markovski broke clear but Aurelio Vidmar running fast towards his own goal made a last minute tackle to stop the Macedonian from scoring.

A goal just had to come and it happened in the 19th minute when the hard working Paul Shillabeer, the Adelaide defender,

crossed a great ball over from the right to the far post and the unmarked Steve Maxwell headed in from close range.

Six minutes later Veart was in the clear on the far post but his hurried shot went sailing over the bar.

In the second half Macedonia's players started to knock the ball around with a little bit more purpose, though Adcity almost punctured their revival in the 52nd minute when Shillabeer again roamed loose on the right and supplied a quality cross to Sergio Melta lurking at the back post. Unfortunately for Adelaide Melta's header whistled wide.

Then in the 54th minute the equalizer came.

John Cavanagh found Adam Sandy on the left of goal and he made no mistake from eight metres out.

Casey De-Bruin, the Macedonian coach made a double change in the 60th minute bringing on Brett Thornthwaite and new signing Peter Murray to replace Tom Pontidas and Graeme Fletcher.

This seemed to bring new life in the Macedonian attack and they played City at their own game, pushing the ball along the ground and using the wings a lot more.

Adelaide was still putting pressure on Wollongong's defence and Peter Wilson, their goalkeeper, saved a certain goal in the 75th minute when he came off his line to block a shot from Joe Mullen.

Towards the end of the game Adelaide's goalkeeper Rob Zabica and Wollongong's other new signing Bob Naumov was involved in a tangle on the edge of the penalty area with both players being booked by referee Bill Monteverde.

At the other end in the closing minutes Aurelio Vidmar, who was in everything, headed just wide from a Veart cross.

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: P Wilson 8, Cavanah 6, Dimov 5, D Wilson 6, Bourke 5, Kay 5, Sandy 6, Pontidas 5 (Thornthwaite 60m), Naumov 6, Fletcher 5 (Murray 60m), Markovski 5.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 7, Tony Vidmar 6, Ivanovic 6, Tobin 6, Melta 7, Veart 6, Csoboth 6, Mullen 5, Maxwell 7, Aurelio Vidmar 8.

SCORERS: Maxwell 19m for Adelaide, Sandy 54m for Wollongong.

YELLOW CARDS: Maxwell 15m, Zabica 88m (AC), Bourke 16m, Murray 71m, Naumov 88m (WM).

CROWD: 2,213.
REFEREE: B. Monteverde 5.

Melb Croatia fightback wins at Edensor Park

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

JOINT competition leaders Melbourne Croatia displayed all the courage and maturity needed to win championships by fighting back from a two goal deficit inside the first 20 minutes to edge out Sydney Croatia 4-3 at Edensor Park last night.

Although still missing four first team regulars through injury and suspension, the Melbourne side became the first team to inflict a home defeat on its sister club this season and in the process win its first ever Croation derby in Sydney.

Sydney Croatia have lately been making a habit of taking an early lead in matches and this was no exception.

A splendid move started by Ivan Petkovic in the 6th minute which also involved Tony Krslovic and John Gibson deserved a goal instead of a mere corner.

But Sydney got its just reward seconds later when central defender Velimir Kupresac powered his towering header into the top corner from Manis Lamond's far post corner kick.

A flurry of action by Melbourne in the next few minutes allowed both Dale White and Francis Awaritefe to go close, but at this stage the home side was well in control with midfield maestro Petkovic dictating the terms.

After 20 minutes it was Petkovic who set off on a strong 15 metre run which mesmerised the whole Melbourne defence before releasing Krslovic inside the box.

Keeper David Miller came charging off his line to close the angle but the big striker simply waltzed around him to give his side a commanding two goal lead.

Instead of folding under the pressure, Melbourne came fighting back and in a matter of nine minutes were deservedly back on level terms.

Awaritefe started the fight back in the 28th minute, taking advantage of a misunderstanding between keeper Tony Franken and Kupresac to tap home from close range.

Then Ivan Kelic rose to meet a Josip Biskic corner kick in the 37th minute to powerfully head home the equaliser.

This stunning come-

back by the visitors appeared to shock the Sydney side as Melbourne came surging forward with plenty of confidence in the early stages of the second half.

Biskic and Awaritefe were causing all the problems but for all that it was Sydney who came closest to going back in the lead after Gibson took advantage of a good Petkovic through ball in the 52 minute, but referee Peter Spiers disallowed the goal for handball after consulting his linesman.

With both defences tightening up considerably after the first half goal orgy, very few clear cut chances were being created.

While both teams were pushing forward looking for a winner, it was Melbourne who looked more likely to break the deadlock and Awaritefe finally did just that with 15 minutes remaining.

Joe Caleta found plenty of time and space to measure his cross towards the far post for the waiting Awaritefe to pick his spot with a solid header.

To rub salt into Sydney's wounds the visitors were awarded a highly dubious penalty in the 85th minute to complete their victory.

Biskic chased a long ball inside the area and Ned Zelic's tackle looked a fair one but the referee awarded a penalty to give Kelic his second goal of the night and confirm Melbourne Croatia's victory.

A super 20 metre free-kick from leading goalscorer Krslovic two minutes into injury time simply whistled into the net for Sydney's third goal but by then the Melbourne side had the two points in the bag.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 6, Carter 6, Grbevski 6, Zelic 6, Kupresac 6, Stanton 6, Petkovic 7, Gibson 6 (Rumora 78 mins), Ricoy 6 (Koch 78 mins), Lamond 7, Krslovic 7.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 7, Davidson 7, Talajic 6, Selemidis 6, Hannah 7, Silic 6, White 6, Biskic 8 (Wright 85m), Caleta 6, Kelic 7, Awaritefe 7.

GOALS: SYDNEY Kupresac 6mins Krslovic 20 and 92m, MELBOURNE Awaritefe 28m and 75m Kelic 37m and 85m (pen).

YELLOW CARDS: Ricoy 65m, White 53m, Biskic 77m.

REFEREE: Peter Spiers 6.

CROWD: 5372.



Saints' first point interstate this year

BY GREG BLAKE

ST GEORGE coach Frank Arok rewarded a makeshift St George side with an unexpected win bonus, despite only managing a point in a scoreless draw with Preston Makedonia at the Connor Reserve in Melbourne yesterday.

A buoyant Arok admitted he was "delighted" with the result as St George won its first point interstate this season.

"It was the most valuable result of the season," a beaming Arok told the press after the game.

"It will give the kids a big boost."

A frustrated Preston coach John Gardiner was straight to the point in his summation.

"Basically they came here for a point and got it," said the unimpressed Preston coach.

Gardiner inadvertently made reference to Preston's lack of depth when he pointed to the absence of three international players from his best lineup.

Oscar Crino was missing once again and both Warren Spink and Andrew Zinni failed fitness tests early on Sunday morning.

It left Preston light on for firepower against a disciplined and impressive St George defence led brilliantly by Scott Baillie, Craig Moffitt, veteran Mike O'Shea and goalkeeper John Filan.

Despite the 0-0 scoreline the action was thick and fast for the entire 90 minutes.

The first half saw St George's superior buildups, sparked by livewire Zoran Ilic and Osvaldo El Ali, come to nothing with the best chance in the 32nd minute as Ilic and Sean Freestone combined only for Freestone see his shot cleared off the line by Joe Markovac.

Kris Trajanovski was thwarted twice by Filan, in the 21st minute with a left foot shot which was brilliantly



John Filan

saved and in the 45th minute when the flying goalkeeper stopped Trajanovski's header.

Preston might have gone ahead in the 50th minute when Baillie cleared off the line from Trajanovski, and Trajanovski was again unlucky in the 69th minute when he tried to trip Filan but Baillie did well to effect a last minute tackle.

Preston came home with the wind in their sails following a double substitution and the fresh legs paid dividends in the hot evening sunshine.

But courageous St George, with six changes from the side beaten convincingly by Apia last week, was not to be denied a well won point.

PRESTON: Traianedes 6, Roodhouse 6, Jolevski 6, Jackson 7, Parton 7, Petrov 6, J Markovac 4 (Stojevski 75m), Trajanovski 7, Tasevski 6, Spasevski 5, R Markovac 5 (Beklaris 75m).

ST GEORGE: Filan 8, Cianter 6, Spanoudakis 5 (Longo 88m), Moffitt 7, Baillie 8, O'Shea 7, Kakalos 6, Poric 6, Freestone 5, Ilic 7, El Ali 7.

YELLOW CARDS: Jackson 37m (Preston), Baillie 31m (St George).

REFEREE: J Fraser 7.
CROWD: 2,100.

QUIT NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



WEEKEND FIXTURES

ROUND 16



SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

MARCONI v APIA LEICHHARDT
Marconi Stadium 7pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

ST GEORGE BSC v WOLLONGONG CITY
St George Stadium 7pm

HEIDELBERG UNITED v PRESTON MAKEDONIA
Olympic Village 6pm

MELBOURNE CROATIA v SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS
Somers Street 6pm

ADELAIDE CITY v SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS
Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

MELITA EAGLES v SYDNEY CROATIA
Melita Stadium 6pm

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
Brandon Park 6pm



PLAYERS WANTED

ROCKDALE ILINDEN SOCCER CLUB, playing in the NSW State League First Division, now invites players for all positions wishing to join this club, for the 1991 Season.

Training trials will be held at the

BI-CENTENNIAL PARK
cnr President Ave and West
Botany St,
KOGARAH

Dates and times:

January 16, 18, 22 and 23 at 6pm



Eddie Thomson predicts Sydney Olympic repeat

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

AUSTRALIAN national coach Eddie Thomson fully expects his old club, Sydney Olympic, to retain their NSL championship.



EDDIE THOMSON

"Sydney Olympic have many good players but they had bad luck with many injuries in the first round," he said.

"They got seven draws without specialist strikers, which wasn't bad.

"Now they have Edwards and Saad back and Kevin Hagan seems to have regained full fitness, which is another great asset.

"I wouldn't be saying this about Olympic if I didn't know their coach Mick Hickman that well.

"Hicky is a man that can be trusted.

"He had a rough patch last season, yet

still led Olympic to NSL championship honours.

"Players like Robbie Ironside, Andrew Bernal, Clint Gosling, Alistair Edwards, Abbas Saad and Kevin Hagan have enormous experience.

"The other clubs don't have players of that calibre in their line-up.

"Hicky can use Hagan and Edwards up front with Saad coming from behind them.

"He may also choose to play Hagan in the midfield for his experience.

"Now at last Hickman has many options available.

"He is far more experienced and better for it after last season.

"The players all respect and trust Hickman and they will do well for him in the second round.

"Provided Sydney Olympic don't have another bad run of injuries I really believe that in the second half of the competition they will climb up the NSL ladder fast and go again into the grand final.

"The only other danger is that certain players don't get too cocky when the good results start coming Sydney Olympic's way," warned Thomson.

And Thomson should know what he is talking about because of two major reasons.



MICK HICKMAN

The first is that he was coach at the club for three years and the second is that he brought most of the current playing staff there now.

Instant NSL status may elude Canberra

BY GRAHAM COOKE



THE question of whether Canberra Metros play in the 1991-92 Quit National Soccer League is already being decided in largely unofficial discussions over the composition of the post-Bradley Report competition.

And while the ACT has its backers, there is a strong body of support for a scenario which would have the national capital wait at least another year before being allowed back into the QNSL.

This argument, contrary to a fundamental recommendation in the Bradley Report, is that the league cannot be completely reorganised in a single season and that no more than two current teams should lose their status in 1991.

There are four front-runners for promotion to the QNSL — the Metros, Newcastle Austral BHP, Brisbane and West Adelaide Hellas.

Slightly behind this quartet at present, but by no means out of the reckoning, is Blacktown City.

Of these, Newcastle has by far the most professional approach.

It has produced a detailed document outlining its history, its current rate of progress and plans for the future.

It has the backing of the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, the local town council and is onside with a fair proportion of the media.

It is also conducting an intensive lobbying campaign within the Australian Soccer Federation.

Hardly a week has gone by since the end of the winter season when a club representative has not been in touch with the ASF's Rockdale office with further news and updates on its case.

Brisbane is not quite so efficient, possibly because of its distance from the ASF, but there is little doubt that Queensland soccer can show a united front in support of a QNSL entry.

The fact it is a state capital and representative of a huge soccer playing area is also a major point in its favour.

While Adelaide City has been a member of the QNSL since its inception, there is a strong lobby for a second South Australian team, largely based on the substantial crowds being drawn to Hindmarsh Stadium for QNSL games.

West Adelaide Hellas, a big-league member on two previous occasions, has a proven track record.

Blacktown suffers from the fact it is Sydney-based, but its admirers point to an efficiently run organisation

with a large social club and easy access to the important western suburbs of the city.

Alongside this the Metros have a consistent playing record and a continuing programme of ground improvements, but face an indifferent ACT Government and, above all, a lack of enthusiasm from the ACT Soccer Federation.

There is also a view which is being put with worrying persistence: the argument runs that following the success of the Canberra Raiders over recent seasons, the ACT is a lost cause — occupied territory too firmly in the rugby league camp to be saved.

If ACT soccer does not wish to lose by default it must present some counter-arguments to this charge very quickly.

In the end the Metros' fate will probably depend on what deal can be struck between the Melbourne and Sydney clubs who will not tolerate an imbalance in their respective numbers.

Currently Sydney has six members, Melbourne five, Wollongong two and Adelaide one.



One thing is certain — Wollongong will lose a club, and that will be Macedonia.

After that, the question arises whether Sydney should give up one club to make the score 5-5 with Melbourne or two, with Melbourne one, to make it 4-4.

Should the latter scenario prevail, there would be room for the Metros, but if it is the former then Canberra could well miss out in favour of Newcastle and Brisbane.

Which current QNSL clubs are in danger?

Wollongong Macedonia certainly. In Sydney, Apia Leichhardt and Melita Eagles could struggle and, St George is not safe either.

In Melbourne, Heidelberg United is borderline but probably safe because of its big crowd-pulling power, while Sunshine George Cross is in trouble even though its progressive

youth policy and attractive football generally wins applause.

The cast-iron certainties for continuing membership are Marconi, Sydney Olympic, Sydney Croatia, South Melbourne, Melbourne Croatia, Preston Macedonia, Wollongong

City and Adelaide City.

Everything points to an intense, possibly brutal battle for survival over the next few months, and unless Canberra soccer is ready to get in there and mix it with the best of them it will be buried.

MITRE FAIR PLAY TROPHY

THE winner for the month of December in the 1990/91 Mitre Fair Play award is Preston Macedonia.

They have achieved this with only one yellow card and three points in five matches.

At the half-way mark, last year's finalists, Sydney Olympic and Marconi, are jockeying for first spot, with holders of the trophy, Marconi, just ahead on 46 points.

The top three teams are also in the top half of the competition ladder, proving that good football goes hand in hand with Fair Play.

Preston Macedonia will be presented with their prize prior to the start of the Round 15 fixture against St George at Connor Reserve.

MITRE FAIR PLAY CUP

DECEMBER TABLE
(Lesser numbers — best results)

	P	YC	RC	P	PTS
Preston Macedonia	5	1	0	1	3
Marconi	5	1	1	2	8
Adelaide City	5	4	0	4	9
Apia Leichhardt	5	2	0	2	12
Sydney Olympic	5	2	1	3	16
Sth Melbourne	5	5	0	5	20
Sunshine G.C.	5	5	1	4	21
St George	5	7	0	6	27
Sydney Croatia	5	6	0	5	30
Wollongong Mace.	5	6	1	6	38
Wollongong City	5	10	0	5	38
Melbourne Croatia	5	10	1	8	43
Melita Eagles	5	12	0	9	57
Heidelberg United	5	13	1	10	64

PROGRESSIVE POINT SCORE

Marconi	11	8	1	9	46
Sydney Olympic	11	10	1	8	49
Sth Melbourne	11	10	-	7	56
Sunshine G.C.	11	12	2	9	61
Apia Leichhardt	11	13	-	9	62
Adelaide City	11	14	2	9	64
Preston Macedonia	11	13	1	9	64
Sydney Croatia	11	18	-	9	79
Wollongong Mace.	11	17	1	10	86
St George	11	19	1	13	86
Wollongong City	11	24	2	15	109
Melbourne Croatia	11	27	2	13	124
Melita Eagles	11	26	2	12	137
Heidelberg United	11	32	2	12	159

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN TOURISTS

NAME	CLUB	HONOURS
Petr Kouba	(Sparta Prague)	U/21-9
Alexander Vencel	(Slovan Bratislava)	U/21-2
Bartolmej Jurasko	(Inter Bratislava)	U/21-5
Jaroslav Silhavy	(Slavia Prague)	A-4 U/21-2
Michal Hipp	(FC Nitra)	A-2
Dusan Tittel	(Slovan Bratislava)	A-3
Karel Kula	(Banik Ostrava)	A-26
Milos Belak	(FC Nitra)	A-5
Jiri Nemec	(Sparta Prague)	A-5
Alois Grussmann	(Vitkovice Ostrava)	A-4
Ondrej Kristofik	(Slvan Bratislava)	A-1 U/21-5
Vaclav Nemecek	(Sparta Prague)	A-11
Petr Holota	(Bohemians Prague)	U/21-8
Pavel Hapal	(Olomouc)	U/21-10
Roman Kukleta	(Sparta Prague)	A-5
Pavel Kuka	(Slavia Prague)	A-2
Ladislav Pecko	(Slovan Bratislava)	A-6

OFICIALS

Milan Slusanic
Rudolf Bata
Milan Macala
Ladislav Novak
Premysl Coch
Ladislav Krabec
Pavel Malovic



(Vice President Czechoslovak FA)
(General Secretary FA)
(National team coach)
(Assistant coach)
(Physiotherapist)
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for the 1991 Season

Training and trials to be held on
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CHRISTIE PARK, TALAVERA
ROAD, MARSFIELD.

Top Five race is hotting up

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE
Croatia, Marconi and South Melbourne Hellas can all but start preparing for the 1990/91 finals.

Recent history suggests all three clubs should be in the thick of the action when the second summer season play-offs begin in April.

Since the NSL did away with the split-conference concept in 1986, only one side with 16 points or more at the half-way mark of the season has failed to make the finals.

That was last year when Round 13 ladder leader Apia, which had 20 points at the half-way mark, lost all form without key striker Rod Brown and crashed out of finals contention to finish the campaign in sixth place.



ROD BROWN

Eleven other teams have ended the outward leg of the season with 16 points or more and gone on to make the finals in the same year.

The 1990/91 finals race is still wide open for teams chasing an elimination finals berth.

Not since 1989, when only two points separated fourth-placed Sydney Croatia and 11th placed Adelaide City at the half-way mark, has the race for the play-offs been so close.

Even 12th placed Sunshine George Cross was only two games out of the 'five' at the end of Round 13.

The best recent examples of clubs making last-minute charges have been Preston's ninth to second effort over the second half of 1987 and Melbourne Croatia's ninth to fourth place in 1989.

Relegation

At the foot of the ladder, Wollongong Macedonia must be favoured for relegation.

Of the eight sides to fill the bottom two places at the half-way mark of the last four seasons, six have been relegated.

Blacktown escaped the drop by the barest of margins in 1989 and Sunshine pulled off a miracle to survive in 1987 after ending the first 13 rounds with just two match points.

Here is a comparison between how the teams stood at the Round 13 turnaround point and how they finished the year over the past four NSL seasons.



TONY FRANKEN: in brilliant form as Sydney Croatia cling to the Top Five.

1987					
Round 13	pts	Final	Team	pts	
Team		Team			
Apia	20	Apia		35	
S. Croatia	17	Preston		29	
Sth. Melb	15	St George		29	
Ad. City	13	Marconi		27	
S. Olympic	13	S. Croatia		26	
B. Juventus	13	Sth. Melb		25	
St George	13	S. Olympic		23	
Marconi	12	B. Juventus		23	
Preston	12	M. Croatia		23	
M. Croatia	11	Ad. City		22	
Heidelberg	8	Melb. City		22	
Melb. City	7	S.G. Cross		15	
S.G. Cross	2	Heidelberg		13	

1988					
Round 13	pts	Final	Team	pts	
Team		Team			
Marconi	18	Woll'ong		34	
Woll'ong	17	S. Croatia		34	
Sth. Melb	16	Sth. Melb		34	
S. Croatia	16	Marconi		32	
Ad. City	14	S. Olympic		27	
S.G. Cross	14	Ad. City		27	
M. Croatia	14	S.G. Cross		27	
S. Olympic	12	St George		26	
Apia	12	M. Croatia		24	
St George	11	Melb. City		23	
Melb. City	10	Apia		23	
Preston	10	Preston		22	
Bris. Lions	8	B. Juventus		19	
B. Juventus	6	Bris. Lions		12	



JEAN-PAUL DE MARIGNY: having one of his best seasons for title-chasing Marconi.

1989					
Round 13	pts	Final	Team	pts	
Team		Team			
Marconi	18	Marconi		38	
Preston	15	St George		32	
St George	15	S. Olympic		31	
S. Croatia	12	M. Croatia		31	
Apia	12	Preston		30	
Woll'ong	12	Ad. City		28	
S. Olympic	11	S. Croatia		28	
S.G. Cross	11	Sth. Melb		28	
M. Croatia	11	Woll'ong		23	
Sth. Melb	10	Apia		23	
Ad. City	10	S.G. Cross		19	
Melb. City	9	Blacktown		19	
Blacktown	9	Melb. City		18	
Heidelberg	7	Heidelberg		18	

1989/90

Round 13

Team	pts
Apia	20
Marconi	17
Sth. Melb	17
S. Olympic	16
Ad. City	16

Preston	15
M. Croatia	14
Melita	12
S.G. Cross	12
Woll'ong	11
S. Croatia	10
St George	10
Blacktown	6
Ad. Hellas	6

Final

Team	pts
Marconi	38
Sth. Melb	36
M. Croatia	35
Ad. City	34
S. Olympic	31

Apia	31
S. Croatia	26
Melita	26
Preston	23
St George	21
Woll'ong	20
S.G. Cross	17
Ad. Hellas	14
Blacktown	12

1990/91

Round 13

Team	pts
M. Croatia	19
Marconi	18
Sth. Melb	17
Preston	15
S. Croatia	14

Final

?	
?	
?	
?	
?	



BRANKO MILOSEVIC — features prominently in Melbourne Croatia's plans — **JOE MONTEMURRO** photo.

Woll'ong	14	?
Ad. City	14	?
S. Olympic	13	?
Melita	12	?
Apia	11	?
Heidelberg	10	?
S.G. Cross	10	?
St George	8	?
Woll. Mac	7	?

Adelaide City make Socceroo history

BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE City is the only club in Australia to have had two sets of brothers picked for Australia.

Tony and Aurelio Vidmar, named in Eddie Thomson's squad against Czechoslovakia, follow in the footsteps of former City men John and Buggy Nyskohus.

The Vidmars are delighted with their selection.

"I'm really excited about it, but it is a shock," said Tony, 20.

"I'm nervous. I don't think I'll have any finger nails left by the time the first game arrives.

"But I'm looking forward to it. I'm keeping my fingers crossed I could be in the starting line-up. Looking at the squad I could have a chance at left back.

Vidmar has accelerated through the ranks. He played his 50th NSL game against Sydney Olympic in his third NSL season.

But he has already represented the Australian High School side on a UK tour in 1988-89 and was with the Olympic squad last year in Europe.

"I'm very happy with my selection and I

thought Tony must have had a chance though I thought they would have kept him in the Olympic squad," said Aurelio, 23.

"Our club commitments come first at the moment and this will be a very tough schedule for us with two games in a week.

"Normally you can manage that okay with club games but there is extra pressure with it being with the Socceroos. We'll just have to take it as it comes."

Adelaide City's Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar. His spectacular form is keeping an otherwise lacklustre Adelaide City in touch with the NSL leaders — **JANUSZ KAMMA** photo.

Mark Bosnich heading home?

BY LOU GAUTIER

TALENTED young goalkeeper Mark Bosnich could be heading home soon.

Bosnich, who made a brief appearance for the Socceroos against Torpedo Moscow in Melbourne last year, has been in England with Manchester United for almost three years.

Difficulties securing a work permit has made life frustrating for young Bosnich in England.

Manchester United are very impressed with his potential, but cannot register him as a full-time professional player because as an Australian with no British ancestors, he cannot earn his living as a footballer in the UK.

United did manage, however, to reward Bosnich for his talent and diligence with a start in their first team



in the last league match of 1989/90, against Wimbledon, where Bosnich kept a clean slate.

Understandably, the youngster and his parents are fed up with this most unsatisfactory state of affairs in England.

Bosnich, who has student status in Britain, is now seriously considering returning to Australia.



And the club he may join is his former side, Sydney Croatia.

Croatia, however, are being very well served by their present captain, Tony Franken.

His goalkeeping has been outstanding this year after a lengthy lay-off from knee reconstruction.

Watch for further developments.



The difference between winning and losing

BY MIKE JOHNSON

WHAT makes the difference between a winning soccer and a losing team?

Usually the answer is skill.

This was clearly seen in the game between Melita Eagles and Wollongong Macedonia at Melita Stadium a week ago.

Melita's third and final goals seven minutes from time showed the difference in class of the two teams.

It was scored by Greg Brown, who in the winter season of last year was a highly paid guest player for Macedonia which helped ensure the club's promotion to the National League.

13 years as a full-time pro' in England, how quick and strong I was compared to the locals.

Unlike stamina which is easy to acquire but also quickly lost, strength stays with you.

Strength produces speed.

Strength + speed = power.

It was very noticeable while watching Olympic's Alistair Edwards on his return from Singapore where he was in full-time training, how sharp and athletic he was.

There was much power involved in both of the Melita goals previously referred to.



Wilson, Dimov, Cabass, Kay, Pontikas and Thornthwaite.

On many occasions they were bullied off the ball by the bigger, more aggressive Melita players.

It was noticeable when the tallish, but not powerful, Naumov was replaced by Markovski, a shortish, stocky player, that a new element entered Macedonia's game.

It was the power of Markovski's shooting.

A midfielder, he shot with explosive power from outside the 'box and even though he did not quite connect properly it was apparent that here was a force to be reckoned with.

This was confirmed minutes later with another powerful long-range shot.

When coach John Fleming inherited this team from Casey de Bruin early season he complained it was "a team of midgets."

He brought in a couple of 'giants', organised a five-man defence and sought results from a defend and counter-attack strategy.

It did not work.

Now Casey is back, the "midgets" are back and they are playing open, attractive soccer.

But it is still not working.

Macedonia has been involved in two good games under Casey that I watched, with lots of football played by both teams.

But Macedonia lost both games convincingly.

So what would you do if you were coach of Wollongong Macedonia?

Len McKendry at Heidelberg down in Melbourne, has a similar problem to that of Casey, namely backing up to a double season with a playing staff not quite to National League standard.

Len, like Casey, seeks organised, tactically aware, creative teams, except Len's teams tend to leave a few scars.

How much benefit the hard stuff is, is difficult to say.

It seemed to work for Sydney City, but the equally successful Marconi don't need it.

Really, it keeps coming back to the quality of your players.

Managing and coach-

ing a professional soccer club is the most difficult of tasks, which is only made easier when you have a stable and competent management, plus the best playing staff in the league.

I cannot think of one coach around the world who has gone from one job to another job, to another, to another with equal success.

If you fall from top jobs it is difficult to come back with lower budget playing staffs in smaller clubs.

Ask Rale Rasic the difference between coaching top club in the '70s St George and Yugal in the NSW Second Division in 1990.

The late Joe Vlasits, not long after having success with the Australian national team, had his club side relegated from Second Division.



MARSHALL SOPER

So for Casey, just months after taking his team, as the big spenders, undefeated through State League, he finds himself hard pressed as a relative minnow to come up with a win a few months later in National League.

The Wollongong board must also feel the irony of it all.

Do you give up or do you keep fighting — it depends on how important it is to you.



Australia v Czechoslovakia

Thomson banks on Olympic spearheads

BY TED SIMMONS

SOCCEEROO coach Eddie Thomson has overlooked form players to include the established striking partnership of Alistair Edwards and Abbas Saad in his national squad to meet Czechoslovakia.

Thomson has chosen the Sydney Olympic duo in favour of the National League scoring front-runners Tony Krslovic and David Seal.

"They were the best combination working together in the NSL last year and I would like to see them continue in that role," he said.

Saad and Edwards have just returned from a season in Singapore where they were the key scoring factor which took Singapore to the Malaysia Cup final.

Thomson named a squad of 20 players for the two matches against Czechoslovakia but will drop two from the group after the final camp.

He will bring the squad together on January 22 in Melbourne for a four-day camp and the final 18 will assemble on January 28 for the first match at Melbourne's Olympic Park two days later.

The second game will be staged at Parramatta Stadium on February 6.

Thomson has retained strikers Paul Trimboli and Warren Spink but has left out the injured Kim Talia-doros and Ernie Tapai.

Also missing is Marconi midfielder Tom McCulloch, who has been ill.

Surprise selections in the squad are Marconi's Ian Gray and David Lowe, Milan Ivanovic from Adelaide City and Branko Milosevic of Melbourne Croatia.



ALISTAIR EDWARDS — selected to add punch to Australia's attack.

bourne Croatia.

Robert Zabica and John Filan retain their goalkeeping positions as do defenders Alex Tobin, Andrew Bernal, Mehmet Durakovic and midfielders Mike Petersen, Paul Wade, Alan Davidson and Andrew Zinni.

Olympic team captain Ned Zelic comes into the squad along with the Vidmar brot-

hers from Adelaide City.

"David Lowe has not had a chance for ages and has been very consistent.

"I think he'll do a great job," said Thomson.

"Gray has also been playing well and I would like to see how Tony and Aurelio Vidmar perform.

"With the retirement of Charlie Yankos, I've chosen Milosevic to see what he's like while the experience of Ivanovic could be useful."

As he predicted, Thomson has chosen Alan Davidson in his efforts to talk the talented midfielder to return to the national side after his retirement last year.

Socceroo Squad

THIS is Eddie Thomson's 20-man squad against Czechoslovakia.

ROBERT ZABICA	(Ad City)
JOHN FILAN	(St George)
MILAN IVANOVIC	(Ad City)
NED ZELIC	(Syd Croatia)
MEHMET DURAKOVIC	(SM Hellas)
IAN GRAY	(Marconi)
ANDREW BERNAL	(Syd Olympic)
ALEX TOBIN	(Ad City)
ALAN DAVIDSON	(SM Hellas)
TONY VIDMAR	(Ad City)
PAUL WADE	(SM Hellas)
ANDREW ZINNI	(Preston)
MIKE PETERSEN	(SM Hellas)
BRANKO MILOSEVIC	(Melb Croatia)
AURELIO VIDMAR	(Ad City)
DAVID LOWE	(Marconi)
WARREN SPINK	(Preston)
ALISTAIR EDWARDS	(Syd Olympic)
ABBAS SAAD	(Syd Olympic)
PAUL TRIMBOLI	(SM Hellas)

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Dandenong has a checkered history

BY GREG BLAKE

FOUNDED in 1964, South Dandenong Soccer Club, with none of the basic facilities, started their playing days at Greaves Reserve — Dandenong Show Grounds — with a team made up from the local Russian community, who quickly faded from the scene to be replaced by a group from Mauritius.

Their reign was a lengthy one which finally ended in the late '70s.

During this period the club had been promoted from the District League to the newly formed Provisional League and found themselves in the company of such teams as Morwell Falcons, Fawcner and Frankston Pines.

The club moved to its present home base at George Andrews Reserve with facilities more in keeping with the recognised standards.

Although the 1970s did produce a workman-like team, with some notable bright spots, a lack of support took its toll and the club found itself relegated to Provisional League 2.

1980 saw another drastic turn of events with the Chilean community moving in and bringing an almost 100 per cent South American representation to South Dandenong.

The club had, in the interim, slipped to the Third Division but were champions of Division Three in 1982, only to find themselves back in the Third Division a few years later.

Another traumatic period occurred at the completion of the 1986 season when the complete Chilean group vacated South Dandenong to form their own club under a new name and at a different locale.

The outgoing group had now obliterated the

CRAMER VISIT

WORLD-famous German coach Dettmar Cramer is to give the NSL a boost later this year.

The West German and FIFA staff coach is to hold a seminar for NSL coaches during his visit to Australia from April 2 to May 13.

His visit is a coup for the ASF. Cramer has been in Australia before, actually, in 1971 he took charge, with Rale Rasic, of the Soccerroos.



club of South Dandenong from the VSF.

The latest chapter in this mainly bleak club history swung into action in the 1987 season.

From the early '70s only one club official had maintained an unbroken service to the club.

He recruited the South Dandenong Albanian community to start up the club from scratch.

The club acquired the League status of Richmond United and played under that name during season 1987, finishing third from bottom.

The following season South Dandenong won the League title. Although only in fourth

position in 1989, they found themselves promoted to Provisional League One for the 1990 season.

1990 was without doubt the club's most competitive and successful season, unbeaten at home for two years and finally winning the League title.

The club lost the last of their three defeats in May, finishing the season with a 21-match undefeated run.

But such was this highly competitive league that South Dandenong had only one point to spare at the season's end.

South Dandenong faces their entry into State League Four with confidence.

Recent alterations and additions to their facilities will make it even more agreeable to players and officials who visit the ground.

The club intends to hold fast to its progressive outlook and pursuit of excellence which, we believe, should be the aim of small and large clubs alike.

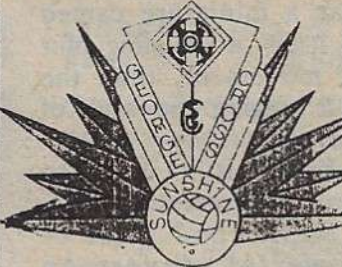
Les Carter to call it quits in the NSL

BY GREG BLAKE

NSL 133-game veteran Les Carter is looking for a new club after a contract dispute with current club Heidelberg which has hastened his decision to leave the club.

Carter, formerly with Adelaide City, Green Gully and Sunshine George Cross, is keen to move to a Victorian Premier League club for the 1991 season.

The 30-year-old midfielder, one of the quiet achievers at the NSL level, says he intends to stay on and help Heidelberg through its present injury crisis despite being unable to come to terms with the club over a new contract.



"I enjoy being there (at Heidelberg) and it will be good for me to stay on to remain match-fit," Carter told ASW this week.

"I'm a little disappointed that the club doesn't want to sign me again but there is no animosity.

"Heidelberg is trou-

bled for players at the moment and I'll stay and help out and play when and if needed."



Carter, rated a great clubman by his peers, has been transfer-listed for \$6,000, the same price paid for him by Heidelberg.

"Len (coach Len McKendry) has been honest with me regarding my situation at Heidelberg and I appreciate that," he says.

"There's a good bunch of lads there and I still believe with a full side in they can be very competitive."

Carter and wife Jackie were expecting a new baby as ASW went to press and his job and family commitments have also combined to hasten an end to an impressive if unobtrusive NSL career.

"With all the travel and training needed to play in the National League, work-wise and family-wise it's probably time to step down a level," the affable Carter explained.



The Dandenong squad: Back Row: E. Wilson (manager), R. Alievski, R. Lumani, A. Dogan, S. Doak, R. Memishi, J. Elmazovski, M. Jusic, Y. Gonullu, B. Wilson (Medic.), E. McCann (Medic.). Front Row: I. Savanovski, B. Yildirim, P. Hennessy, S. Musaj (President), H. Mayne, S. Webster, Fitzpatrick, H. Sepetci.

Know your names

BY GREG BLAKE

IN a recent short piece for ASW we covered some of the strange and unusual nicknames of Melbourne-based NSL players.

A number of people have written curious to find out the pet names accorded their own favourite players by their team-mates.

Your wish is our command.

These are the nicknames of players in Melbourne NSL teams.

No correspondence will be entered into and should you desire explanations on some of more obscure-sounding nicknames we're afraid you'll have to ask the players themselves.

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER

Peter Bordignon — Bordie
Stuart Cannell — Stu
Les Carter — Parker
Angie Goutzoulis — Shaggy
Willie Herd — Herdie
John Kanasoulis — Kana
Garry McDowall — Gazza or Reidsy
Jeff Olver — Walrus



PAUL WADE — "Wadey" to his mates.

Jacko 2
Warren Spink — Sid
Zoran Tasevski — Chiko
Cris Trajanovski — Traja
Phil Traianedes — File
Andrew Zinni — Zinski

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS

George Alevisos — Ala
David Clarkson — Clarky
Troy Cranney — Cranners
Luciano Fabrizio — Luc
Paul Foster — Fozzie
Gary Hasler — GI
Derek Hunter — Dek
Sean Keogh — Arnie
Chris Ketsakidis — Ketsa or Handbrake
Lorenz Kindtner — Loz or The Kid
Jason Koliba — Kenny
Ossie Latif — Oz
Dave McFarlane — Macca
Alan Roodhouse — Roody
John Waddell — Showbag



ALAN DAVIDSON

Damian Mori — Dumbo or Frog
Craig Foster — Junior

Nick Ousalkis — Alka
Seltza
Alan Scott — Scotty
Stuart Stevenson — Skull
Phil Stubbins — Donner or Showpony
Gary Bratten — Brats

MELBOURNE CROATIA

Josip Biskic — Biski
Alan Davidson — Davo, Bear or Radar
Paul Donnelly — Soldier
Ivan Duzel — Slammer
George Hannah — Hannovic
Ivan Kelic — Kela
Andrew Marth — Stabber
David Miller — Magic
Branko Milosevic — Champ
Theo Selemidis — Sela
Mark Talajic — Beast

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS

Steve Blair — Blairey
Mehmet Durakovic — Yugsey
Paul Fernandes — Freddy

David Healy — Weasel
Bruce MacLaren — Brewster
Michael Michalakopoulos — Alphabet
Harry Micheil — Handbrake
Joe Palatsides — Pala
Mike Petersen — Crab
Angie Postecoglou — Posti
Kimion Taliadoros — Kyrie
Steve Tasios — Tas
Peter Tsolakis — Gus
Paul Trimboli — Trimmers
Paul Wade — Wadey

PRESTON MAKEDONIA

Oscar Crino — Big O, Oki or Gilligan
Lou Bekiaris — Motorbike
Steve Jackson — Jolly
Joe Markovac — Joey
Robbie Markovac — Robbie
Ginge
Shaun Parton — Bigem
George Petrov — Peder
Ian Roodhouse — Roody
Robert Spasevski —



JEFF OLVER
"Walrus"

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Flashback to 1978 after Sutherland had won the then prestigious Ampol Cup.

Rigby plans Sutherland's 1991 State League season

BY PHIL MARTIN

OVER the last three weeks, Sutherland have been conducting fitness tests on all contracted players.

This is to determine the level of fitness of players and to plan for the pre-season programme.

The coaching staff this year is once again led by Bill Rigby, who will be assisted by retiring player Peter Terrey, and John O'Shea will take the under 19s.

All have been very pleased with the overall fitness level and attitude of the players over the off-season.

With the competition starting on the weekend of April 6/7, it has been decided to start full pre-season training on Tuesday, January 22.

This season will be a test of character for the club, even though last season was very successful, albeit we only played half the competition in the conference set-up.

Sutherland are very proud of the fact that they develop and produce the majority of the first grade squad.

This takes time and comes in cycles.

Young players such as Harry Christadoulou, Dave Enzor, Paul Edmunds, Scott Lennie, Nigel Noffkey and Grant Bard (on loan to Wollongong Macedonia) have matured and developed so much over the last year.

Simon Murray, Tony Brampton and Phil Walker, who did well last year will become regular first grade players in time.

With so many young players in the squad, the Sharks always need experience, and it is players such as Rob O'Shea, Jim Webber, Darryl Sharpe, Paul Dart, Rob Sellars, Geoff Byscayef, John Kosmina who provide this.



JOHN KOSMINA

What is the aim for 1991?

Above all, enjoyment and the development of the many

young players at this club.

If this is achieved, then success will be achieved.

To what extent remains to be seen.

Obviously, the aim is to finish as high in the competition table as possible, and a position at least in the top four is not out of the question.

At many clubs, winning is everything, coaches come and go, players come and go, and money with some seems no object.

You cannot buy a team or a coach — it may prove fruitful short-term, but long-term you go back to square one.

If clubs have a good youth development programme, and are prepared to develop young players, then there is a sense of stability and this in the long term will always win out.

Kulcsar settling in with Antwerp

BY GRAHAM COOKE

FORMER Canberra Metros midfielder George Kulcsar has paid a flying visit home over Christmas, taking advantage of the winter break in Belgian soccer where he is playing for First Division side Antwerp.

The 23-year-old is cautious about his prospects of establishing himself in the highly-competitive European arena, but says his chances have improved by developments within the club.

"I have been called into the first team squad but have not had a chance to play as yet," he said.

"The main difficulty is a restriction which only allows three foreign players in any team. There are eight at Antwerp at the moment, so obviously there are difficulties for me.

"But under league rules any foreigners who have completed five years in Belgium are no longer counted — the captain, who's a Dutchman, has just passed that mark so it opens up another space."

Since arriving in Antwerp in October, Kulcsar has played seven reserve team games, "which can still be a pretty high level," he said.

"Depending on how a club is performing it could have a number of first team players in the reserves. You come up against a really good side one week and a relatively young and inexperienced one the next.

"But the one big difference compared with the NSW State League is that you never meet opponents who can't play — there's no way you can relax and leave a player for someone else. It just doesn't work.

"Obviously Antwerp is reasonably happy with me as it gave me a contract, but whether it's because they think I have a future with the

Vital results for Joeys

TUESDAY's New Zealand — Fiji result will be an important one for Australia's under 17 Joeys.

This follows due to the 1-1 draw between Australia and New Zealand on Sunday.

Australia scored first, with the Kiwis pulling equal before the break.

Right from the outset Joeys' coach Les Scheinflug has pointed to New Zealand's preparation under Kevin Fallon, and now the Aussie lads have a big job in front of them to qualify for the World Championships in Ecuador in August.

Fijians demolished

NAPIER — Australia began their bid for a place in the Under-17 world soccer championship finals with a roar when they thumped a tackle-shy Fiji 6-1 at Park Island on Friday.

After kicking off, the green-and-golds were one-up after just 95sec when Fabio Macolino avoided a half-hearted dive by a Fiji-an defender on the left wing and crossed to the far post for stocky striker Vasilios Kalegeracos to head home the first goal of a hat-trick.

Nine minutes later Kalegeracos' head brought his team's second score.

It came after tight control in the box by Alex Kiratzoglou who had a shot saved by Fiji goalkeeper Mohammed Shaffeem's feet before delivering the rebound to Kalegeracos.

A handball by a Fiji-an defender in the penalty box resulted in Australian captain Tony Carbone netting from the penalty spot in the 17th minute.

Kalegeracos' hat-trick was completed in the 22nd minute of the 90 min match when he received the ball in the middle of the park and ran about 30m with three Fijians in tow before planting the ball

beyond Shaffeem.

Emosi Baleinuku and Shaffeem deflected shots off the line in the 30th minute before Lorenzo Campagna scored Australia's fifth with a miscued shot which rolled under Shaffeem from the subsequent corner-kick.

The biggest shout from the 420-strong crowd came a minute later when Fiji scored.

Ronald Yakub had a seemingly harmless shot from about 30m which goalkeeper George Karamalis could only palm on to the underside of the crossbar.

Following up, Iliesa Samusamuvodre controlled the rebound on his chest and side-footed into the empty net.

Kiratzoglou scored the only goal of the second half when unmarked on the right he received a cross from Kalegeracos and sent it past a flat-footed Shaffeem.

AUSTRALIA 6 (Vasilios Kalegeracos 3, Tony Carbone, Lorenzo Campagna, Alex Kiratzoglou) bt **Fiji 1** (Iliesa Samusamuvodre).



Steve Darby and Craig Johnston, the new ASF Youth "ambassador".

Support our women's team

BY STEVE DARBY

IN May, at Marconi Stadium, the Australian women's national team will play in a World Cup qualifying tournament against Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, to gain entrance to the first-ever FIFA Women's World Cup, to be held in China.

The national team cannot get competition against women within Australia and has been playing against quality male opposition.

This, in many ways, is great preparation as it makes you realise how quick top level football is and how you cannot survive on skill alone if you are not fit.

To compensate for the lack of female opposition we have been very lucky to have a series of matches arranged against Swedish champions Malmo FF, whose male team came out in 1989 to play the Socceroos.

The Swedish girls are all professionals and this will be realistic opposition for the female Socceroos.

Many of the Australian team want to play overseas after the World Cup and this will be a great opportunity to see if they are good enough.

The first game is on Sunday, January 27 at 5pm as a curtain

raiser to the NSL Sydney Olympic v St George clash at the St George Stadium.

The second game is at Marconi Stadium on Tuesday, January 29 at night, and the third match is in Canberra on February 1.

This is a chance for all females who love soccer, either playing or watching it, to come along and see the best action available.

The more females who come to watch the game will not only help the Australian team but will mean that we will get more games in Australia.

So if you are a female reading this column pass it on to a friend and spread the word around.

We will only be taken seriously in soccer when we attend the games and support each other in numbers.

If you are a male reading this column, tell a female about it or even better come out and watch the game.

Wollongong Olympic

BY PAUL MANIHIDIS

As publicity officer of the Wollongong Olympic Soccer Club (formerly Aris Soccer Club) in the Illawarra District Premier League, I would like to inform you that we have signed Richard Evans as our coach for two years.

Richard Evans has replaced Robert Fryer, who has now joined Shellharbour Soccer Club, Richards' former club.

Richard will be assisted by John Griffin and Rick Fox in 1991, and with these three coaches we expect to

have a successful season.

Our club has signed a 20-year lease at Brandon Park (the ground next to the Wollongong Wolves' stadium).

The amenities building has been completed.

Finally, I would like to mention that our club will start training on Sunday, January 20, at 8am at our ground.

Players wishing to join our club are welcome.

If you need any further information, ring me on 042-262 828 between 4pm and 5.30pm or after 6pm on 042-851 689.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



ADELAIDE Croatia's NSL challenge has been given a huge boost.

Exciting import prospect Drazan Kekez has flown in to brighten State League title hopes.

And key central defender Robbie Slager has re-signed.

Kekez, an attacking midfielder with an eye for goal, arrives with a good reputation. He played with former First Division club Dinamo Vinkovci in Yugoslavia.

Kekez, 22, previously impressed in SA when he played for Croatia in a charity match against Adelaide City.

"He was here then on a holiday visa," said Croatia clubman Karlo Zagar. "We sent him home to Croatia for him to return on a sporting visa."

"He is a very skilful player and he could give us quite a boost. He has been training in Croatia so he should be ready for action in the Ampol Cup."

Kekez is Croatia's third visa player, with Mladen Putanec and Wojtek Jagoda.

"Putanec already has applied for permanent residency," said Zagar. "We hope that comes through this year."

Slager had been actively pursued by Hellas but has decided to put pen to paper for Croatia with whom he played in the last Foundation SA season after a NSL spell with Hellas.

"I'm looking forward to the challenging season ahead and want to help Croatia in its bid for NSL," said Slager.

"We look to have a good squad and I feel we can do really well."

Slager's signing is another major blow for Hellas which is finding suitable recruits hard to come by.

The late appointment of coach Alby Kidd saw several possible key signings being fixed up by their own or other clubs before Hellas could make a move on them.

The paucity of available cash also is hampering Hellas moves.

A loan deal with Adelaide City over Olympic squad man Mark Brazzale could be an answer.

Brazzale, who has been training with the NSL squad, reportedly is on offer for \$20,000 — a sum City would seem unlikely to pay.

Perhaps a swap, with some City fringe men going to boost Hellas' depth, could be arranged.



Adelaide City and Australian goalkeeper Robert Zabica commits himself to clear his lines, before a packed house at Hindmarsh Stadium. — Photo JANUSZ KAMMA.

Modbury's Scottish import George Whyte and Steve Koutsouvelis of Polonia, are the only two new players of note to be attracted to Hellas training so far.

The club, which is expected to keep most of last year's title-winning squad, is likely to want at least two new quality players to boost its bid in a highly-competitive State League season when the championship could be a key ingredient in the criteria for NSL application.

POLONIA is putting in a solid four-times-a-week training regimen to be ready for the new Foundation SA season.

The club is veering towards giving youth a chance and is pleased to have fixed up Simon Romaniuk, Ian Rochow and teenage Port Adelaide defender Paul Giannaris.

Officials have heard little of the progress of Damian Harley on trial in England but hope he will return for the new season.

ADELAIDE City's dynamic Soccerroo midfielder Ernie Tapai expects to have the plaster removed from his achilles tendon injury in the next couple of weeks.

Then would start the long road to rehabilitation and a NSL return.

"It seems to be coming along okay," said Tapai. "It will be good to take another step along the road once the plaster comes off but I'll just have to take it

easy to make sure we get everything right."

SEAFORD is negotiating to have an experienced midfielder and striker in its line-up for next season.

Training under coach Mike Bell started last week.

SALISBURY expects a double UK boost for the new State League season.

Graham Latham is due back either late this month or early next after trials in the UK.

And midfielder Sean Greeves also is ready to return.

"Graham badly hurt an ankle and virtually had to write off his chances there," said club man Jack Innes. "He is touring Europe just now with Damian Harley of Polonia and the pair are expected back soon."

"Sean's fiancée has been cleared to come out here and they are expected any time. He has been playing in the UK and is supposed to be pretty fit. We have permission to play but I don't know what level he was playing at."

Salisbury is confident it can clinch the signing of goalkeeper Oscar Peters, from Port Adelaide to give the club a strong looking squad for the new season.

The club is mourning the passing of 'Irish' Billy Graham. He was a coach and keen clubman in the formative years of Salisbury. He died of a heart

attack.

ADELAIDE City coach Zoran Matic had more than most to celebrate on Christmas Day.



ZORAN MATIC

It was his birthday. The City chief is 46.

Meanwhile, City and Soccerroo Robert Zabica is No 1 in the goalkeeping colour stakes.

He now sports a VERY colourful top.

FORMER Adelaide City general Adrian Santrac still is paying the club dividends, though he has retired

from NSL action.

Santrac, and City club stalwart Peter Marafioti both were to the fore recently when floodlight failure put City's match with Marconi in jeopardy.

The City men, both electricians, helped restore light.

HELLAS is on a round-Australia alert for new players.

Coach Alby Kidd has made contact with Chris Todd in WA, Frank Liddell in Queensland and Kenny Murphy in Victoria to see just what talent is available.

"But we will not be jumping into the transfer market for just anybody," said Kidd.

"Anyone we get here will have to be 40

Metros Youth

Training for Canberra Metros' NSW Youth League team has resumed at Charnwood Oval. Team manager Richard Beazley says new players are still welcome.

"We already have players from Inter Monaro, Juventus and Weston Creek training, but our coach, Ivan Gruicic, would like to see more before making decisions for 1991," he said.

— GRAHAM COOKE

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed.

Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

per cent better than what we already have."

Kidd expects to keep most of last season's squad and is pretty pleased with progress so far at training.

"We are getting a few things organised and should be ready for our kick-off on January 23 in the Ampol Cup," he said.

Kidd himself has a slight back strain but is happy the calf strain which saw him miss of last season's QNSL

play-offs has cleared completely.

BIRKALLA Eagles could have a couple of new midfield faces in its line-up to face Hellas in a trial at Camden.

The club seeks permission from a couple of State League clubs for players to participate.

One is a high-profile, industrious engineroom man. The other is a mercurial, highly-promising teenager.

Sermanni switch

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Metros coach Tom Sermanni will make the switch from teacher to apprentice when he joins the staff of the Australian Institute of Sport in February.

Sermanni will be working under AIS team boss Ron Smith as part of a newly established scholarship scheme which aims to give leading community coaches the experience of working in a professional environment with elite players.

The job will not affect Sermanni's position with the Metros but he will be taking a year's leave from his job as a teacher at St Francis Xavier High.

"I suppose you'd have to say I am becoming an apprentice, but it should be a tremendously interesting experience," he said.

"There is the possibility of attending a major course overseas and I believe there will be a



TOM SERMANNI

certificate awarded at the end, although the details have not been worked out."

Sermanni is currently on a tour of Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Brunei as coach of the Australian schoolboys side.

He will return on the 20th and Metros' senior training begins two days later.

Weston Creek's move shocks ACT

BY GRAHAM COOKE

In the first ACT shock of the New Year, First Division struggler Weston Creek has parted company with its coach of the past three seasons, Tony Romero.

Announcing the move, seniors club chairman Colin Tully said Romero had actually approached him with his decision to quit before Christmas.

"I delayed making an announcement in the hope I could persuade him to change his mind," Tully said.

"It is Tony's decision. He believes there is not enough happening around the club to suggest next season will be any more successful than the last three."

"There is absolutely no dispute with the club. We wish him well in whatever he wants to attempt."

Romero's departure creates a vacancy in one of the more difficult jobs in ACT soccer.

Without licensed premises and with few other resources, the Creek has consistently battled against relegation since its return to the top flight in 1987.

Possible candidates for the post are former Downer Olympic coach Phil Redmond — although he is believed to only want to play next season — Ian Heywood, former team boss at Tuggeranong United, and Ian Shaw, whose previous job at the University of Canberra has gone to Tony Brennan.

And while Romero himself may be disillusioned with club coaching, it would be a great shame if his experience and ability were lost to the game. If he remains available, his name should be one for the ACTSF to consider when it comes to naming staff to take charge of age-group teams during 1991.

GEELONG CITY CRUSHED

BY ROY HAY

ADELAIDE City crushed Geelong City 6-0 in Round 14 of the National Youth League (Southern Division) at Hindmarsh Stadium on January 6.

Geelong tried a close-making game and when this broke down Ross Aloisi got clear to score the opening goal after 19 minutes.

He then broke away again and crossed for Michael Brooks to force the ball in from close range.

Brooks got a third after a defensive mistake before the break.

Richie O'Sullivan and Charles Fitzpatrick came closest in Geelong's attacks.

Brooks added two more goals in the second half and Joe Guastella also got his name on the scoresheet.

Sunshine George Cross had a comprehensive 4-0 win over Heidelberg United at Olympic Village.

NSL star Ossie Latif scored a hat-trick and Wayne Attard got the other goal.

Preston Makedonia bounced back with a 6-2 defeat of Brighton at Dendy Park.

Preston's goals came in pairs to George Vasilevski, Nick Georgopoulos and Vitale Ferrante, while John Patterson and Arthur Kouritis replied for Brighton.

Altona Gate had a narrow 3-2 win over Caulfield City at Paisley Park.

Zlate Markovski, Henry Velkovski and Victor Mendes were Altona Gate's goal-scorers, and John Vlasiotis and Con Argiriou scored for Caulfield, which just could not get an equaliser.

Melbourne Croatia Colts had Tom Trupkovic to thank for its 1-0 victory over Springvale City at the Frank Holohan Complex.

It was an even game with two of the youngest sides in the league in opposition.

South Melbourne Hellas Colts and Northcote City fought out a 4-4 draw at Middle Park.

Northcote powered away to a 3-0 lead, but the Colts fought back to equalise.

Northcote went ahead again only for Michael Pappis to equalise once more from the penalty spot.

Craig Ireland, with two and Jason Maiale were Colts' other scorers, and Jim Iliopoulos was disappointed to score a hat-trick for Northcote and yet not finish up on the winning

★★★

NSL chairman Sam Papasavas says Victorian NSL clubs will be just about full-time soon. He expects the introduction of poker machines in Victoria to give soccer the base it needs to pay players full-time salaries.

side. Nick Hatzilazaridis continued his recent fine form with another goal.

The big match between Melbourne Croatia and South Melbourne Hellas at Somers Street, was postponed to save the heavy pitch for the senior game.

Adcity pastes Altona

BY ROY HAY

ADELAIDE City played an incredible match against Altona Gate at Paisley Park in Round 15 of the National Youth League (Southern Division) on 13 January 1991, which ended in an 8-3 victory for Adelaide.

The win keeps Adelaide three points clear at the top of the ladder, but after about twenty minutes of play the teams were locked at 3-3.

Henry Velkovski scored twice and Trajce Latomanski once for Altona Gate, then the latter was sent off after an incident involving a spectator.

From then on Adelaide took control with four players each scoring twice — Ross Aloisi, Jamie Perin, John Christopoulos and Carlo Talladira.

It was a high-scoring round, with Preston Makedonia running up nine goals against South Melbourne Hellas Colts, five of whose players are off with the Joeys in New Zealand. Nick Georgopoulos, George Vasilevski and Vitale Ferrante each scored twice and singles fell to Chris Temelkovski, Chris Emsovski and Peter Razmovski.

Sunshine George Cross also had a big win, by 7-0 against Springvale City. Wayne Attard had a hat-trick in 32, 43 and 51 minutes, while Mitchell Cattermole added two goals and Osman Latif and Athan Zacharias one apiece.

Melbourne Croatia was too strong for its Colts side, fielding Ivan Duzel and Andrew Marth in its line-up.

The goals came at intervals from Denis Bergam, Husein Skenderovic, Josip Bacak, Leo Stolica and Richard Milanovic, while Damir Grganovic replied for the Colts.

Stejan Silic did his best in midfield for Colts, while Jani Suric ploughed a lone furrow up front. South Melbourne Hellas welcomed back Kimon Talliadoros and gave him a run in the NYL against Caulfield City.

It was no score at half-time and two minutes afterwards, Talliadoros lobbed the ball over a defender and hit it on the volley for the kind of goal which does wonders for confidence. Peter Nikolakopoulos added another, but Peter Konidaris pulled one back for Caulfield and both sides hit the woodwork, before Talliadoros got his se-

W'gong Macedonia jubilant

BY PAUL GOODWIN

WOLLONGONG Macedonia celebrated their second win of the season 3-2, but it was just as well that their opponent, Highfield Azzurri, turned up early at Brandon Park or there could have been an embarrassing result to proceedings.

The switch to a 4 o'clock kick-off had not been convenient to the Newcastle visitors, and they arrived at 3.35pm expecting a leisurely warm-up, only to be rush into the dressing

room. It was not a good start for the club, which had injuries to key players Brad Van Epan, Craig Penfold and goalie Lee Archer to content with as well.

In the 9th minute, however, Paul Searant put Highfield one up when he turned on a ball from Jeff Mullard on the right and from 10 metres found the right corner of the net.

Two minutes into the second half Tommy Mojanovski made a good run for the Macedonia and provided Borce Popovski with the chance to bring the scores level.

Joe Senkalski chose this game to put in a re-appearance for Highfield and was instrumental in setting up Dean Adamson in the 70th, but the striker's shot hit the upright.

Darren Galway headed Macedonia into the lead in the 80th after a corner and the lead increased after a goal-mouth melee two minutes later.

Senkalski was brought down in the box in the 83rd and converted from the spot, but the home side held on for a popular win.

AIS team had been a little rusty after a three weeks lay-off and went down to 2-1 to Apia at

Lambert Park.

Although controlling play for long periods, the boys from the Institute could not capitalise on an early strike by Louis Granata and fell to two second half goals by Brad Maloney in the 55th and John Montesano in the 82nd.

The AIS goal in the 17th should have signalled a continuation of the team's unbeaten run, but that came to an end as Apia grabbed their chances.

The St George side was fortunate to share the spoils 1-1 with Adamstown Rosebud when they scored a 84th minute equaliser at Budgewoi Oval.

Adamstown was solid in defence, but missing leading marksman George Sefouris could not break through the St George rear guard which at times verged on the desperate.

Goal-line clearances and brilliant saves denied the Newcastle side until the 82nd minutes when Damian Smith made the breakthrough.

But then Alan Stojic rifled the ball into the Adamstown net following a corner just moments later and the prospect of a sensational victory evaporated.

With Adamstown having given St George such a fright, perhaps the AIS will have a real game on their hands when they tackle the Novocastrians on Saturday.

Sydney Olympic maintained their recent good showings with a 2-0 win at the expense of Wollongong City at St George Stadium, which put them into second spot for the time being.

The first goal in the 5th minute saw Jason Bennett win the ball on the edge of the box and

gain the upper hand over Wolves' keeper, George Bouhoutsos.

The second came from Peter Lahanas, who scored in similar fashion to Bennett, also rounding the goalie before netting.

Olympic went to win the game despite losing George Georgouloupos, sent off by referee John Cameron for serious foul play.

On a more pleasant note, they welcomed back Marco Perinovic after a long period out with injury.

Round 15 Results

Sydney Academy Melita postponed: Apia Leichhardt 2 (Maloney, Montesano) AIS 1 (Granata). Adamstown Rosebud 1 (Smith) St George 1 (Stojic). Wollongong Macedonia 3 (Popovski, Galway o.g.) Highfield Azzurri 2 (Searant, Senkalski pen). Sydney Olympic 2 (Bennett, Lahanas) Wollongong City 0.

St George.....13 9 2 2 37 19 20
Sydney Olympic.....13 8 4 2 21 11 18
Parra Melita.....12 7 3 2 19 9 17
AIS.....10 7 2 1 26 12 16
Sydney Croatia.....11 7 1 3 23 9 15
Wollongong City.....13 5 3 5 15 18 13
Highfield Azzurri.....13 4 3 6 24 31 11
Sydney Academy.....10 4 2 4 19 13 10
Apia Leichhardt.....13 4 2 7 21 27 10
Marconi.....12 4 1 7 17 21 9
Wollongong Mace.....13 2 1 10 10 34 5
Adamstown R.....13 0 2 11 15 43 2

TRAGEDY CLAIMS MANLY PRESIDENT'S WIFE

THE Manly Warringah Soccer Club and the local Manly Warringah District Soccer Association are in mourning, following the news that last week's Tasmanian 'plane crash claimed four lives including that of Patricia Pester, wife of club president Keith Pester.

Trish, who was in partnership with her husband in the family printing business, was taking part in a National scouting gathering on the island as a leader of the Belrose Venturers.

Keith Pester, who recently took on the additional role of president of the new Manly North Shore United FC to play in 1st Division this season, was on holidays at the time and planned to join his wife on the private stage of her holiday, where they were to look at Wilderness areas together.

Trish Pester was a popular member of the community, with a longstanding background in scouting

and youth groups, and gladly lent unstinting support to her husband in all his soccer endeavours, including major contributions to running of the Cromer Park canteen.

The two were long time members of the giant Wakehurst Soccer Club, founding members of Curl Curl Soccer Club and their two sons still play with Wakehurst in the Manly Warringah District competition.

Supporters from Manly Warringah and North Shore United and the soccer community generally extend their deepest sympathy to the Pester family at this difficult time.

— PAUL GOODWIN

ST GEORGE vs W'GONG CITY



St George Soccer Stadium

88 Bestic St, Rockdale

SUNDAY JANUARY 20 7pm

YOUTH LEAGUE: ST GEORGE vs W'GONG CITY 5PM

SAINTLY COUPONS: \$3 COUPON WITH EVERY ADULT TICKET — CAN BE DONATED TO ANY ORGANISED CLUB OR CHARITY.

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The year in review

BY ROBERT WHEATLEY

IT would be more than appropriate to conclude at this stage, after 9 months in the position of the state's Promotions and Development Officer, that the range of my responsibilities has allowed me to cover a substantial amount of new ground in soccer development.



The implementation of the schools development program and the use of high profile NSL and Soccerroo players to assist in the running of this initiative has been very satisfying from my point of view.

It has allowed many players who find themselves in limbo, resulting from the semi-professional nature of soccer in Australia, to use their talent in spreading the code's message.

In my dual role as player and promoter it is possible to gain a view of the game from both sides of the fence.

The need for current players to support promotional moves continues to be a major priority in all current and future plans.

Training and working with these players on a day to day basis can sometimes shadow or cloud the signifi-

cance of what each player has achieved by being a regular NSL member or of having been able to achieve the ultimate aim of representing your country.

Young sports people readily acknowledge these achievements and my objectives of having such players at the various state wide competitions throughout the year was extremely well received.

Making presentations, talking to young players and giving them a boost was the aim at camps throughout the year, state titles, Champions of Champions, school knock-out soccer and country visits.

It would also be fair to say that most players progress through their soccer careers with little thought of the machinery of organisation that is operating around them at all times.

The ladder of achievement from local club team to association representative sides to state team and further honours is the path that very few are able to tread.

Top NSL players spent useful hours coaching in schools in 1990.

The time and effort, however, that thousands of volunteers provide for this process to take place never ceases to amaze.

It is equally important to mention the similar amount of time and dedication that is needed for the grass roots of soccer—the local competition—to take place which caters for tens of thousands of players.

Attempting to adequately cover the broad spectrum of issues that operate in NSW is one aspect of the position that is most daunting. As one prominent ASW journalist constantly reminds me, we need 100 Robert Wheatleys working in the business for our code to assume its full potential.

The current activity of new positions, new projects and new people in all levels of soccer in Australia is a real boost.

These people, together with myself, will be responsible throughout 1991 in increasing the amount of activity and also the quality of work that has been completed to date.

ACHIEVEMENT PATHWAYS

BY STEVE DARBY

IN his weekly column this week Steve Darby, the national Development Officer, outlines the second major initiative of the ASF.



In 1991 soccer will be part of a major national launch of an Australia wide sporting programme which has great potential for the game.

The programme is called the Challenge and Achievement Pathways in Sport and has been developed for a number of sports by former Soccerroo Gary Cole, who now works for the Youth Sports division of the Australian Sports Commission.

The programme was devised after the most extensive research into youth ever undertaken, so it's a programme which the youth of Australia wants and not what adults think they want!

The programme is aimed at young participants in soccer, male or female aged between 14 and 20.

And although aimed at every person, the major aim is to boost the retention rate of kids in soccer.

Soccer has a massive participation rate between 8 and 13 years but sadly like a number of sports, we have a large dropout rate at mid-teens.

The research undertaken by Cole and the Australian Sports Commission revealed that the elite 10% of

participants in soccer were looked after very well with club teams, state teams, the AIS and the excellent Joeys and youth national teams.

However, beneath that elite, there is a massive amount of players who don't get the best pitches, coaches or referees and start to drift away from the game, despite the fact that they may well love the game.

The CAPS scheme will help encourage that 90% of the non-elite players to stay in the game and make a valuable, much needed voluntary contribution to the sport.

The CAPS scheme is very much like a soccer Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, in that all participants in soccer who register with the scheme (and it's free) will gain points for every hour they put voluntarily into areas such as refereeing, coaching, administration and sports training.

This may well be a great opportunity for young kids to try refereeing and the other non-playing areas of the game and they may well be surprised how much fun it is, and stick with it.

This is far better than just drifting out of the game and into video parlours, or even worse, drugs and gangs, not only that, but soccer needs this volunteer corps of people who love the game.

So watch out on TV, radio, at school, and through your clubs in April for the CAPS scheme.

NSW will honour John Constantine



JOHN CONSTANTINE

ASF chairman John Constantine has been nominated for life membership to the NSW Soccer Federation.

Here is a profile on the former NSW president:

1. Longest-serving President — elected 28.11.83, resigned 17.4.90.
2. Federation accepted broader responsibilities.
3. Employed NSW's first Director of Coaching.
4. The Federation incorporated — legal entity.
5. Negotiated a \$1,000,000.00 grant from the State Government for the development of Parklea.
6. Arranged \$100,000.00 in sponsorship from the State Bank.
7. Introduced modern technology into office.
8. NSW employed a Referees and Schools Development Officer. The first State to do so in this area.
9. Architect of the Federation's Strategic Development Plan.
10. Restructured Board of Directors for direct representation for the Amateur Federation and NSL clubs.
11. Introduction of Public Liability and Personal Accident insurance to safeguard clubs, players and officials.
12. Restoration of interstate representative fixtures with Queensland.
13. NSW for the first time in a decade promoted international tours and matches.
14. NSW assumed responsibilities of the ASF to promote international matches to the public — most notably the Bicentennial Gold Cup and the World Cup qualifying match against Israel.
15. Prior to becoming President of the Federation was President of Sydney Olympic for seven years.
16. John was appointed to the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust in 1986. He is one of the few to survive recent purges by the NSW Government.
17. In 1987 was awarded O.A.M. for services to the code.
18. Is the first NSW President to ever be elected to Chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation, a position he was reappointed last year.
19. Principal motivator of the review of the Australian Soccer Federation by Dr Graham Bradley.

SOLICITORS

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JUNIOR LETTER

I think the NSW juniors should follow the NSL and switch to summer soccer.

By playing on harder surfaces our kids would improve their skills.

Too many matches in winter are played on mud heaps that can only induce kick-and-rush football.

I am a dreamer?

Why can't everyone switch to summer soccer in Australia?

ROGER LUND
Mascot, NSW

PLAYERS WANTED

LEMNOS ALLSTARS SOCCER CLUB



Lemnos Allstars want to win the NSW State League Division 3 competition in the 1991 Season.

To ensure promotion, we now seek the services of players with a professional attitude, or seek to learn it.

Trials will be staged every Tuesday and Thursday, commencing January 15 at 6.15pm.

Interested players are invited to contact coach and former Soccerroo John Doyle at the trials to be held at:

Bark-Hut Reserve

Elliott Street, Belfield

Youth League players are also invited to these trials.

PLAYERS WANTED

Petersham Lusitanos Soccer Club, the progressive NSW State League Division 2 side, is now seeking quality, experienced players for their First Grade and Under 19s squads.

Training sessions commence tomorrow, Tuesday January 15, that will be held at:

TIMBRELL PARK
FIVE DOCK

at 6.30pm sharp

For further information, please contact:

Mr D. Naylor ☎ (02) 684 2025 (BH)

OR

Mr T. Elias ☎ (02) 569 7065 (P)



European TV will cover US World Cup

AT a press briefing in New York, FIFA and the Local Organising Committee for the World Cup USA '94 announced that the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) will be responsible for the technical side of the international televising of the 1994 World Cup finals.

The project manager is to be the Spanish EBU engineer, Manuel Romero, who was in charge of the television broadcasting at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984 and who has a similar assignment at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Talks with the EBU over the production of the international television signals have been going on since 1989.

It was already evident when the USA first received the assignment to host the World Cup finals that none of the major American television corporations possessed sufficient know-how in the soccer domain to be able to guarantee the high recording quality required.

Negotiations are now in progress regarding the sale of the rights for the English-speaking channels in the USA and the English and French-speaking channels in Canada.

FIFA, who owns these rights, expect that negotiations will be tied up not later than September this year.

All the other rights under the terms of the contract concluded with the international television consortium have been settled until 1998.

[In Australia, SBS have secured exclusive World Cup rights for both 1994 and 1998 — Editor.]

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Philippe Vercruyssen, of Marseille, scored three goals against Lech Poznan in the second round of the Europe Cup. Marseille's quarter-final opponents are mighty AC Milan.



Lazio's German striker Riedle soars above his Bari opponent in a recent Italian League game.

PETRY'S AWARD

SOLT Petry, Hungary's 24-year-old goalkeeper, is the country's first Players' Player of the Year.

He won the award in the first poll of players by the Professional Players' Association from Denes Vaczi, the Tatabanya forward, who was second, and Pal Fischer, of Ferencvaros, who was third.

Petry, previously at Videton-Waltham and one of a host of newcomers this season at Budapest Honved, the leaders at the winter break, has fast reactions, safe hands, and anticipates well, thus enhancing his positioning.

GHEZZI DEAD

GOALKEEPER Giorgio Ghezzi, one of Italy's most popular players during the 1950s, has died of a heart attack at age 50.

Ghezzi played for crosstown rivals Inter and AC Milan and had six appearances with the Italian national team.

He played for AC Milan when it won the European Champions' Cup in 1963.

Because of his daring saves, he was nicknamed "Kamikaze" by Italian fans.

Ghezzi, who retired in 1965, ran a hotel in the Adriatic resort of Cesenatico, his home town.

SOUTH AMERICAN SCENE

BY MARIO ETCHART

MORE than 60 soccer journalists from all over Latin America voted Raul Vicente Amarilla the 1990 South American Player of the Year in a poll conducted by the prestigious Uruguayan newspaper "El Pais" (The Country).

The Paraguayan striker received 57 votes, followed by Uruguayan forward Ruben Da Silva of River Plate of Argentina with 32.

"A goalscorer can't do it alone. He needs the support of the whole team and in accepting this award, I want to recognise and express my gratitude to my fellow players for such great support", said Amarilla.

Colombia's flamboyant goalkeeper, Rene Higuita, shared third position with compatriot and brilliant playmaker Leonel Alvarez. Both polled 25 votes.

Olimpia's coach, Uruguayan Luis Cubilla, was voted South American Coach of the Year after guiding the Paraguayan team to victory in their National League, the Libertadores Cup and to the final of the Toyota Cup, where they lost to AC Milan.

Cubilla received 25 votes. Second was ex-Argentine national coach Carlos Salvador Bilardo, with 23, and third Peñarol's coach, Cesar Luis Menotti, also of Argentina.

"El Pais" has been conducting the poll for the last five years and it has been widely recognised by the top sports journalist in Latin America.

The reporters also selected the 'ideal' South American team, including three Argentines, three Uruguayans, three Paraguayans and two Colombians.

Noticeably, not one Brazilian player was included in the best eleven.

The squad selected is: Goalkeeper: Rene Higuita (Colombia); Sweeper: Juan Simon (Argentina); Stopper: Daniel Revelez (Uruguay); Right back: Fabi-

an Basualdo (Argentina); Left back: Carlos Enrique (Argentina); Midfielders: Santiago Ostolaza (Uruguay); Luis Monzon (Paraguay); Leonel Alvarez (Colombia); Strikers: Ruben Da Silva (Uruguay), Raul Vicente Amarilla (Paraguay), Adrian Samaniego (Paraguay); Coach: Luis Cubilla (Uruguay).

South American Leagues

Little known Bella Vista are the new Uruguayan champions.

The "Papal Boys" as they are known because of the similar colour of their shirts with the Vatican flag, finished in top position, seven points ahead of giants Nacional and 10 in front of Peñarol.

Bella Vista, Nacional, Peñarol, Racing, Central Español and Wanderers qualified for the Pre-Libertadores League.

The two teams finishing in first and second places will qualify for the 1991 Copa Libertadores, representing Uruguay.

In Chile, Colo Colo, the most popular club in the country, won the National League for the second time in a row, with Universidad Catolica seven points behind.

Huachipato were relegated and Universidad Catolica, Union Española, Deportes Concepcion and O'Higgins qualified for the "Liquilla".

The winner of this last tournament will accompany Colo Colo in the Libertadores Cup 1991.

In Ecuador, Liga Deportiva Universitaria dethroned Barcelona and became the new Ecuadorian champion.

Liga Deportiva Universitaria defeated Barcelona 3-1 and qualified for the Copa Libertadores.

Barcelona must beat Emelec to qualify for the competition. Barcelona were the finalists last year.



GREEK DRACHMA DEBT

IF the Greek government were to enforce the law against First Division teams owing money to the state, only two of the 18 would be allowed to play — Panathinaikos and Aris Salonica.

All the others owe something to either the tax office or the state-run social insurance plan.

The various governments over the past few years have looked the other way as clubs continued to owe more and more.



The biggest debit is \$6.5 million by Olympiakos.

Another major club, AEK Athens, owe around \$3 million.

To add to the problems, attendances are dropping steadily this season, with 5,500 fans on the average at each First Division match.



SERGIO BATISTA: suspended for one year for violence towards the referee during the South American Super Cup match between Argentinos Juniors and Nacional of Montevideo.

Score more goals, please — FIFA

SOCCKER risks losing fans to other sports unless more goals are scored, FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter was quoted as saying.

But he said widening the net was no solution.

"Fewer goals mean fewer people in stadiums, less publicity, less income from TV, less money for everyone," Blatter told the "Algemeen Dagblad" newspaper in Holland.

"The end result will be that youth will turn its attention to other sports. That would be the beginning of the end for soccer."

FIFA has been looking to increase goal sizes since complaints during the 1990 World Cup that matches lacked excitement because of consistently low scoring.

"It is no solution. It is expensive and would take at least 10 years to change the size of the goal on all fields," Blatter said.

"I was present at the Italy-Holland match in Palermo last year.

"Marco van Basten and his team barely sent a single shot in the direction of (Italy goalkeeper) Walter Zenga.

"A scandal, considering the friendly character of the match," Blatter said.

"Even a goal size of 20 metres wouldn't have made a difference in that match. The match only underscored the problem.

"I'm looking for a quicker, easier solution and above all one that can be implemented."

Blatter did not say what that solution might be.

FIFA CHRONO

FIFA's big events of 1991 are:

15.3: Lisbon (Portugal): draw for the 6th World Youth Championship for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup

25.5: Ecuador: draw for the 1st U17 World Championship

June: Finalisation of the World Cup Regulations USA '94

8.6: Belfast: 105th Annual General Meeting of the International FA Board

12.6: Lisbon: FIFA meetings

13.6: Lisbon: FIFA Executive Committee

14-30.6: Portugal: 6th World Youth Championship for the FIFA/Coca-Cola Cup

16.8-1.9: Ecuador: 1st FIFA U17 World Championship

14.9: Guangzhou (China): draw for the 1st FIFA Women's World Championship

16-30.11: China PR: 1st FIFA World Championship for Women's Football

December: USA: Draw Preliminary Competition 1994 FIFA World Cup

Milla is top African player

ROGER Milla, Cameroun's veteran World Cup star with the magic touch and the wiggling hips, was voted African Footballer of the Year in a soccer writers' poll.

The 38-year-old Milla, who came out of retirement to provide some of the most memorable moments of the World Cup finals in Italy, took the award for the second time, no less than 14 years after first claiming it.

Milla, scorer of four goals as Cameroun became the first African nation to advance to the World Cup quarter-finals, received 103 votes in the joint poll by the magazines France Football and Afrique Football.

Second was Algerian midfielder Cherif El Ouazani with 64 votes and joint-third were forward Rabah

Madjer, also of African champions Algeria, and Cameroun striker Francois Omam-Biyik, scorer of the Camerounian goal which beat defending champions Argentina in the opening match of the World Cup, both with 60.

Milla, whose hip-wiggling dances by the corner flag after scoring during the finals were almost as delightful as his subtle ball skills, became only the second player to be named African Player of the Year twice.

The first was his team-mate in the Cameroun national side, goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono.

They love to hate Maradona!

DIEGO MARADONA has been voted Italy's most hated man in a year-end poll conducted for "La Repubblica" newspaper.



The temperamental Napoli captain heads a list including Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, United States President George Bush and pop singer Madonna, whose erotic stage antics have offended many in the land of her forebears.

Asked to name their least favourite people of the year, 34 per cent of 1,023 people surveyed chose Maradona while 25 per cent went for Saddam.

The paper says Italians agree that Maradona is a trouble-maker, a hypocrite and a sower of discord.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

GERMANY, Denmark, Italy and Norway are, in addition to the host country, China, the first teams to qualify for the Women's World Cup in China in November.

The fifth European representative is yet to be decided.



French international defender Casoni (right) and Albania's Kushta in last year's Euro-92 qualifier won by France 1-0 in Tirana. France and Spain meet in a decisive Group 1 match in Paris next month.

Faulty draining blamed for mediocre Italian pitches

A sports ministry commission has blamed shoddy work on draining systems for making four of Italy's showpiece soccer stadiums unplayable.

In a statement, the commission said busy schedules at the Milan, Genoa, Turin and Rome grounds — prepared for the World Cup finals at a cost of \$700 million — and a very wet winter exacerbated the problem.

"One can say that the work (on the draining) was badly done," Sports Minister Carlo Tognoli said.

Players and coaches have complained bitterly about the state of the pitches and some, including Internazionale's Andreas Brehme, have blamed them for injuries.

Tognoli ordered the investigation after matches at Rome's Olympic stadium and the San Siro ground in Milan had turned into mudbaths and fixtures at Genoa and Turin had to be postponed on December 9.

The statement said roofing built at Milan and Rome for the World Cup in the summer "cannot be considered determining causes of the deterioration (of the pitches)."

INTER



ANDREAS BREHME

The roofing was originally seen as a cause because it allowed less air and light to reach the turf.

But although the commission found the roofing altered the humidity inside the stadiums, the draining systems had not been adapted accordingly. Excess damp was not allowing new turf to root properly.

Tognoli, who sent the commission's findings to parliament, said long term mea-

sures had to be taken after the league season ended in May.

AC Milan and Inter, who share the stadium at San Siro, have been involved in European cup competitions this season, as have Genoa's Sampdoria, Juventus and Roma.

The four grounds, modified or built for the World Cup, are also used almost every weekend for league matches as they are all shared by two first division sides.